

# IMPACT

December/January '99-00

press

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## CREATIONISM: MONKEYING WITH SCIENCE EDUCATION



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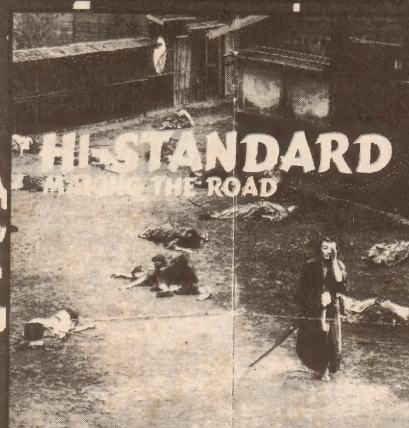
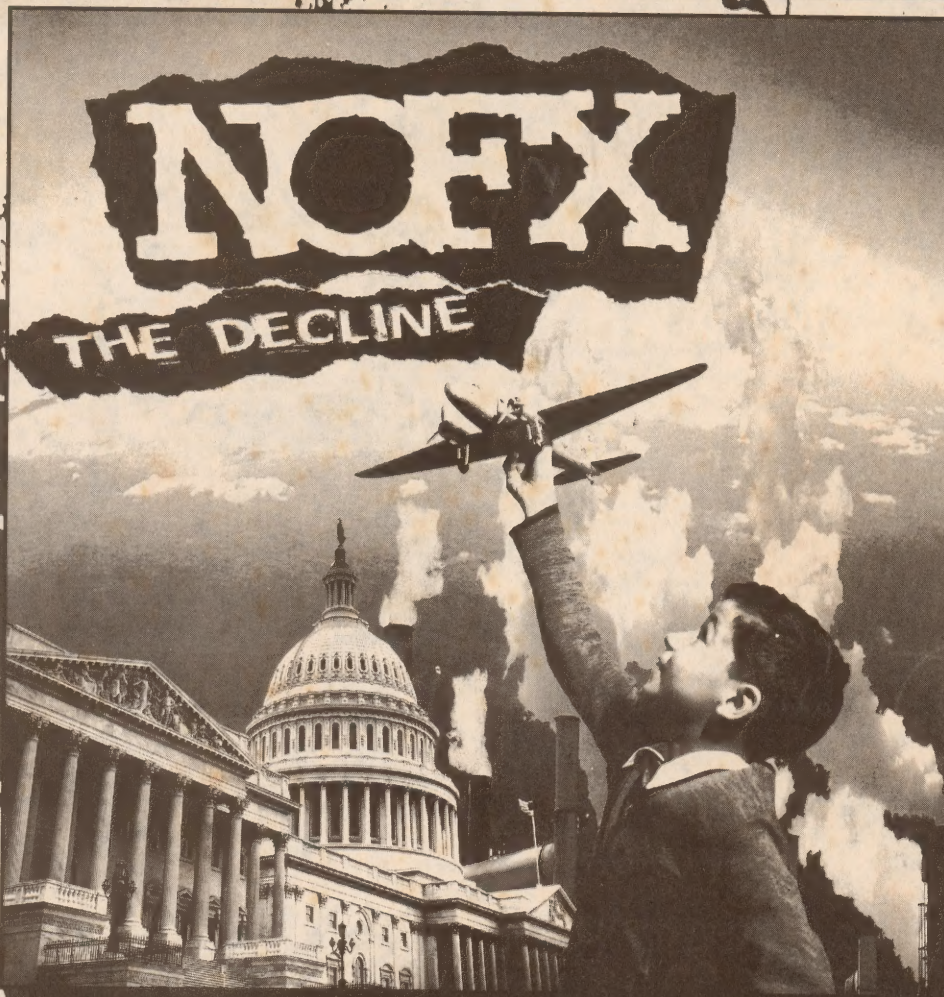
Articles from two  
Death Row inmates

Senate to World:  
"Screw You!"

Racism, alive and well  
in America's colleges



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# things

# within

IMPACT PRESS • ISSUE 24 • DECEMBER/JANUARY '99-00

cover story



art: mary kelly

## CREATIONISM: MONKEYING WITH SCIENCE EDUCATION

by Morris Sullivan

Creationism and evolution have always butted heads. But more recently, the debate is threatening the well-being of America's public education system. Schools are for the teaching of facts, not the teaching of myths. • PAGE 22

"...instead of studying how to make it worth men's while to buy my baskets, I studied rather how to avoid the necessity of selling them."

-- Henry David Thoreau, Walden

"Evolution, as such, is no longer a theory for a modern author. It is as much a fact as that the earth revolves around the sun."

-- Ernst Mayr

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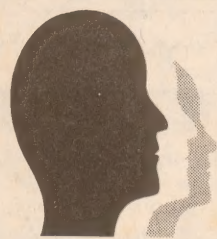
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**Fun fact of the Issue:** In 1920, Socialist Eugene Debs received 920,000 votes for president of the United States. Yet he ran his entire campaign while he was in jail.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education." - Thomas Jefferson



## From The Editor

So, you want to be more politically active, and you want to have a voice? But, you don't have time to protest or picket or hand out flyers. You can still force change and make your voice count.

Consumers are the key to economic success. Without people buying crap, most companies would fold. As a consumer, you can take a stand with the decisions you make in your purchases. These are simple things you can do, on a daily basis, that assist in the fight for many causes.

Activists all over the world use their power as a consumer to push forward an agenda. Vegans and animal rights activists refuse to buy products made from animals. Leather, wool, honey, meat, silk and other products are boycotted and the retailer and manufacturer feel the results. Granted, the number of vegans and animal rights activists in the world may not cause immediate impact, but the more one abstains from making these purchases, the more clearly the point is made.

Human rights advocates refuse to purchase products made in China. It's a confusing thing to me, that the U.S. imports so many products made in a country with such glaring human rights violations. There is also consideration for China to become part of the elite World Trade Organization. The U.S. denies Americans the right to travel to communist Cuba, yet allows China to sell thousands of products in our stores. Take a stand against China's human rights violations and a stand against America's lopsided policies. Check the label; if it says "made in China", put it back on the shelf.

Some may not realize what their purchases

support. For instance, Phillip Morris, the "we didn't know smoking was bad" company, also owns Kraft and Miller beer. Exxon, who still owes billions to the victims of the Valdez Oil Spill, also owns Mobil.

The Gap, who also owns Old Navy, is said to operate sweatshops for the manufacture of many of its products. Also, The Gap is said to use clear-cutting techniques, destroying much needed forests throughout the United States.

Macy's, who also owns Burdines, continues to sell clothes made of animal fur despite the obvious inhumane concept of animal slaughter for warmth. If a fur coat was the only way to stay warm, there could be an argument. However, there are so many animal-free alternatives for keeping warm - it is unfortunate that so many still choose to contribute to the murders.

While I'd love to write an editorial that is comprehensive, telling you of all the evil companies (like Johnson & Johnson for extensive animal testing and Wal-Mart for religious right involvement), I can't. What I'm trying to do is let you know that you have **POWER WITH YOUR PURCHASES**. It is your money that facilitates these companies - in turn, allowing them to commit crimes against humanity, animal abuse, price fixing, etc. So, when you decide where to shop next, give some thought to where your money is going. And when you get out your wallet, consider where the product you are buying came from, if the makers were fairly treated and if anyone (animals included) was harmed in the making of it. Let your money do your talking and tell bad business that you don't buy it! -- Craig Mazer

## Make an IMPACT

Find out who animal tests and who doesn't:  
<http://www.peta-online.org/cmp/ccprod.html>

Co-op America - sweat shop info:  
<http://www.sweatshops.org/>

Exxon Valdez Victims - latest news, etc.:  
<http://www.exxonvaldez.org/>



# Speak Your Mind. . .

Please proof your letters. IMPACT will try to decipher them. However, help us avoid having to do extra work. ALSO - keep your letters under 400 words. Thanks!

## IMPACT:

I am writing to you today as a conservative American who is sick of being labeled a "homophobe, racist, or a hater" simply because I have an opinion out of line with so-called popular theory. I don't hate minorities, I simply don't believe in special preferences. Equality for all, special rights for none, is my motto. It's scary that in America today, the only people who can "hate" are white folks. Want to hear hate? Listen to Louis Farrakhan rant about "white devils" and "filthy Jews." Tell me... did you ever hear about the dragging death of an Illinois white woman 2 months after the Texas dragging death of Mr. Byrd?

Did you know that most racial crime is BLACK ON WHITE? (check out FBI crime statistics) The man who drug her was black, and it was racially motivated. How many black women are raped by white men, as opposed to the opposite?

You don't measure up in life, so you want to blame "whitey"... he's a very good scapegoat, isn't he? Blacks aren't the victims of hate, discrimination, and oppression as much as victims of their own self destructive behavior.

I am a proud American, and thank God, a conservative. White men founded this country, and made it what it is. Think where you'd be.... if this hadn't occurred. A white man is the reason you live in the freest country in the world.

I don't hate you. I just pity you.

Rachel H. O' Kelley

## IMPACT:

Thank you for your article ("Prisoners of Conscience — Imprisoned Fighters for Justice" by Morris Sullivan and Patrick Scott Barnes, Issue #22). As a former inmate in the Florida State prison system (beer run, no violence/injuries, 4 & 1/2 years, no shit), I've seen what goes on in those places first hand. While I can't speak to the truth of any of the specific affidavits in question, I can tell you that guards beating the hell out of inmates is a very common and widespread practice. Those screws will, not to put too fine a point on it, beat your ass at the drop of a hat. Not

bloody nose and swollen lip beat, but cracked ribs, broken jaws, hearing loss, and on several occasions that I have direct knowledge of, death. One nifty trick I saw employed a lot was to wrap the handle of a large, metal flashlight in a towel. A very effective truncheon (believe me), and what bruises it does leave fade within a day or so, making it extremely hard to prove allegations of abuse (not that you'd make such allegations unless you had a serious death-wish).

In any event, my point is that the charges that have made it to court are serious, but I think that in order to grasp just how far this thing goes, you should look at the "1st level" of prisoner complaints; the "grievance form". This is the initial form an inmate is to fill out when they feel they have been denied fair treatment, or been subjected to other wrongdoing. Find out how many are filed in a given year, and then find out how many actually result in \*ANY\* form of redress on the part of the administration. The numbers are chilling. Filing a grievance was the quickest way to get to the hospital (if they were scared enough to take you to a hospital, that is; you had to be in bad shape for that.).

Anyways, it's easy to ignore what happens to "criminals", and you have my thanks for not doing so.

Your friend,  
Vintarg

## IMPACT:

I just wanted to say that the article in the October/November '99 issue about Reagan is very true. I don't think it would be a good idea to change anything that got us out of the cold war without coming to the apocalypse. When somebody argues that Reagan did a bad job they are also arguing that they would have done something differently, and if something were done differently, who knows what kind of shitty post-nuclear holocaust type of world we could be living in....if we were living at all.

p.s....to Craig Mazer

Recently I have become a vegan...or at least I am trying very hard. I thank you and the magazine for helping me out.

— Alan Milner

## IMPACT:

I want to commend Patrick on the fine column he did about Bush, Jr. and cocaine. As you'll recall, I'm sure, Clinton's drug history became a major issue during his campaign, and you still hear jokes made about his comment that "I didn't inhale".

If, in fact, politicians' pasts are to be viewed as indicators of their values and their potential performance in office, then Bush's potential cocaine abuse should be as "public record" as Clinton's pot smoking, Gary Hart's dalliances, Eagleton's anti-depressants....

....or the coke-for-guns swapping of elder Bush, by the way.

Wouldn't it be refreshing, however, if politicians all told the truth about those things? America would crumble, I'm sure, if campaigners started saying, "Yeah, I smoked dope. So what?" or "Sure, I bang my secretary. Wouldn't you, given the chance?" or even, "Most of my money comes from unethical sources. What do you expect? I'm a politician, for Chrissakes."

Shoot—I'd vote for someone that honest.

Morris

## IMPACT:

I hate your subscription ad! I was reading through your magazine came upon a picture of someone slitting their wrist. What ever social message you wish to portray with the other material in your magazine is completely lost with this stupid advertisement. Your rag is in the trash.

Susan Arnold

## IMPACT:

I'm a very political punk, and when I ordered a pair of boots from Angry, Young and Poor (Lancaster, PA), I received a copy of your magazine (Feb/Mar '99 #19). I loved the fresh insight and the way it was presented. I also enjoy the strong, thoughtful, open-mindedness of your writers. Thanks, and keep up the great work!

Brooke Harrison



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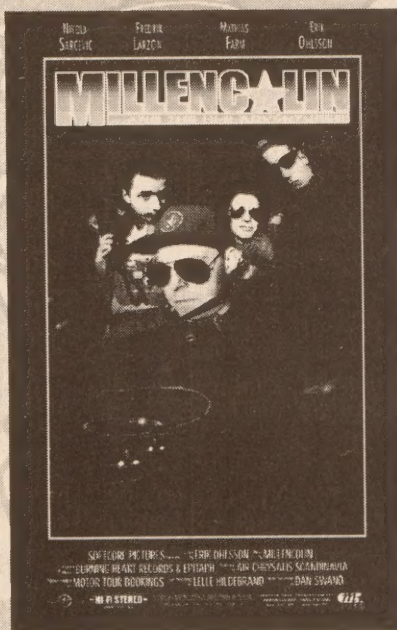
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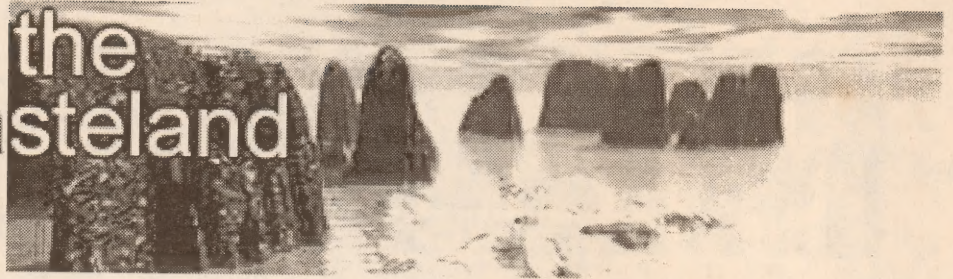
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# Notes from the Cultural Wasteland

*morris sullivan*



**THIS BEING BOTH MY LAST COLUMN OF THIS MILLENIUM** and my first of the next millenium, I feel a lot of pressure to make it an especially good one. Technically, I guess this really isn't the turn of the millenium. See, there's no year zero, so the first millenium started with the year one and ended with the year 1000. This one started with 1001 and ends with 2000. The next millenium, then, doesn't start until 2001.

However, the calendar's been changed so often that the date is pretty arbitrary, anyway. Everyone wants the new millenium to start January 1, 2000, which is when we all have to start getting used to writing checks where the year begins with a "2". Since we're all in such a hurry about it, I'll go with the flow.

**So at some point in the next few paragraphs, I have to say something truly profound.**

Therefore, I've decided I'm going to stick my neck way out—while teetering at the very tip of a long, long limb—and make a statement that, if I'm right, will ensure my immortality as "the first guy who noticed this", but for which I have very little evidence. Hopefully, if I'm wrong, everyone will forget I said it.

I had this epiphany while seated at a luncheon—one of those affairs where everyone eats rubber chicken while politicians talk about what great jobs they're doing. There's nothing special about that—publicly patting themselves on the back is one of the few things politicians do well, and so much of American politics is accompanied by servings of chickens that one wonders if a serious chicken-shortage wouldn't cripple the government.

I was eating chicken and listening to the politicians, and I noticed something—a lot of these politicians were women. Then it dawned on me: Western society is turning matriarchal.

You see, societies are either patriarchal—that is, controlled by guys—or matriarchal, with the women in charge. Whether a society's social structure is male-dominated or female-dominated is mainly determined by how its economy functions. If survival of the tribe depends on how well men do the really big jobs, then control of the social structure is in the hands of men. If, on the other hand, women do the "really big jobs," then they end up controlling the social order.

Among primitive societies, matriarchal structure is relatively common. Perhaps the women go off to slash and burn while the fellas stay home and take care of the kids. Family structure is very different in these societies; childcare might be a communal enterprise, for instance.

For thousands of years most of the civilized world has had a patriarchal social order. This is because most societies depended on men to go do some physically challenging job in order to get food and left the women at home to raise kids and stay out of the way. That's why we have monogamous male/female marriages, incidentally; survival and procreation required clear sex-role differentiation and a stable home environment.

Now, about half of all marriages end in divorce, and about a third of all children are born to unwed moms. Not only that, but we're seeing more and more "chosen families"—gay and lesbian marriage, for example, and other groups of people who aren't related by "blood" or matrimony (legal or holy) joining together to create a support network, share the chores, spread the financial burden, and so on. Clearly, the social order has evolved away from the "traditional family."

The traditional structure clearly defines job functions as either "men's work" or "women's work." Sex-role stereotyping of jobs has, for the most part, crumbled. Women are just as capable as men of performing most of the tasks society now depends on. In fact, they're probably more so. Men tend to be physically aggressive and intellectually math-oriented. Women tend to be physically nurturing and intellectually language-oriented. Which group do you think is better suited for the information age, when most of the "really important jobs" depend on communication?

Face it, guys: if we're not killing something, plowing something, or toting something, we're pretty useless.

There are other signs of this matriarchal tendency, too, like bumper stickers proclaiming, "God is coming back, and she's really pissed off." The growth of Wicca and other Goddess-religions, in fact, may be one of the clearest indicators that the philosophical underpinnings of our social order is mutating. Christianity, you see, is highly paternalistic.

I can hear the guys screaming already. "Those damn feminists! Look at all this trouble they started!" The guys are wrong, though. Feminism didn't start the trend; the trend already existed, and feminism was a necessity. Probably, a lot of the current neo-conservatism (like screaming about feminists) is backlash against that trend. As a society evolves, no doubt many of its members cling by their fingertips to the old social order. To some, the new one is scary.

Personally, I welcome the change. Unfortunately, I probably won't be around to see it come to full completion. I imagine it will take a few more generations and a bunch of elections before men get paid less than women for the same work. Hopefully, too, the nurturing non-mathematicians will be more egalitarian than we were. ■



# The Liberal Defense

I am a liberal. I am not ashamed of it. If caring about my fellow human beings makes me one, I'll wear the liberal badge with honor.

Some would think that because I am African-American, I embrace liberalism because I want a hand-out. Liberals realize that before affirmative action, there were those who have been receiving "hand-outs" for years. Liberalism is all about making things fair and evening up the odds.

Conservatives claim to be against hand-outs. As I have said in previous articles, it was the conservatives who heavily taxed the middle-class and gave tax breaks to big business and the one-percent rich.

Liberalism is not anti-rich. Liberals have nothing against those that worked hard and became rich. Liberals just want everyone to pay their fair share of taxes.

Unlike conservatives and Libertarians, liberals believe the federal government should be involved when things get out of hand. For instance, during the civil rights era, conservatives wanted no part of ending segregation in the South. Black males were being lynched and black folks couldn't vote.

Liberals wanted to put an end to this madness. Conservatives wanted to stay out of it. They wanted to leave the problem solving to the Southern States. How can a person say something like this when many Southern governors behaved like members of the Ku Klux Klan themselves? Governor George Wallace of Alabama stood in front of a school to prevent black students from entering. Conservatives still didn't want to get involved. Luckily, liberals didn't listen to them.

I think stories like these should be told to those Libertarians that also start talking the same Feds-hands-off nonsense. I wonder if folks seriously believe that without government intervention, the South would have ended segregation.

Recently, I've been criticized for digging up the past and "needless finger-pointing." Like a true liberal, my main goal is to point to the wrongs in life and show where those wrongs may have started. If it's a sin in showing the obvious that the Republican party is full of truth bending, divisive hatemongers - then a finger-pointing, sinner I shall be.

If there's on thing that sickens me is the way conservative types tells me how they are turned off by the anger in my writings. Yet and still, those that tend to speak on their behalf really let the anger-goose loose.

One time, I received a three page letter full of anger. This person didn't like what I wrote about Jeb Bush. He was offended and said I was practicing "left-wing McCarthyism."

Another incident happened in a bar. My friend, Nigel, and I were in Will's Pub one night. A fifties greaser type was fussing to his female friend about how this magazine (Impact) was such bullshit.

He knew I was sitting near. He looked right at me before he grabbed the magazine from the magazine stand.

Apparently, from his angry mumbling, he didn't like what someone wrote about right-wingers. Instead of just saying he didn't like what one person wrote, he blamed the whole magazine.

Twenty minutes had passed and the guy was still fuming.

I have yet to see a liberal carry on this way.

A liberal would have hated the writer, not the whole politically-diverse magazine.

And why are conservative types always writing Impact urging the staff to separate themselves from me?

I have yet seen a liberal do that, too.

The only time I got in it with my fellow liberals is when I had the Nike emblem on my knit cap. Seeing how Nike treats people overseas, a man of my liberal nature shouldn't wear be wearing it in my Mind Power picture.

I understood that. What kept pissing me off was how folks were carrying on.

"Look, Patrick, I don't know you, but get rid of the Nike hat."

"Patrick, don't you know how Nike exploits people?"

Yes, I can be the first to admit, liberals can be a downright pain in the ass.

Still, the pain in the ass mainly comes from their concern for others. So, I got rid of the Nike emblem. (And no, I didn't get rid of it because of money. I wrote that to piss those annoying folks off.)

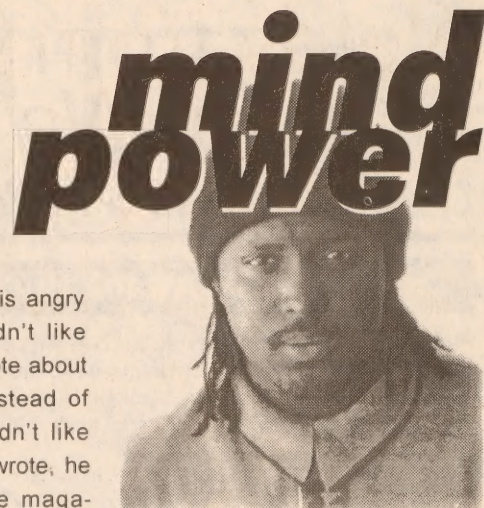
Besides being pains in the ass, there's another thing that gets me extremely upset with liberals. When other groups talk shit about how evil we are, liberals don't talk shit back. Fuck that!

Liberals ought to be more vocal. We have a lot to be proud of.

For those that hate liberals, let's yank liberal programs from them. A person applying for a college loan and don't like liberals, don't give it to them.

Some senior citizen mouthing liberals, take their social security. We'll see what the conservatives will do for Grandma and

(LIBERAL, continued on page 46)



by patrick scott barnes





# TJ Walker.com

Original News and Perspective on Politics, Media and Culture

## NAACP Attack the SAT

What are they thinking over at the NAACP? Recently, its leaders spent their time and efforts trying to get more black characters on prime time sitcoms. Just what black people—or any people—need: more incentives to waste time and brain cells watching network garbage.

Now, the NAACP has launched a campaign to get colleges to de-emphasize the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The following things are true about the SAT:

- It's not a perfect predictor of college success.
- Minorities do score significantly lower.
- Students with low SATs can go on to do well in college.

However, it is also true that if Stanford has to pick between two high school students from different schools who both have B averages and one scored a 700 on the SAT and the other scored 1400, Stanford can assume the second higher-scoring student received a superior education and, for whatever reason, is likely to do better at Stanford and graduate.

It is not irrational for Stanford to want to have a common yard stick for measuring students, given that each high school and its grading system is different in America.

Yes, yes, yes, the SAT is imperfect and may ask more questions about classical music than rap, but it is still one measuring stick of a kid's state of learning after 11 ½ years of schooling.

The NAACP is shooting the messenger. Instead, it should embrace the SAT's as proof that funding disparities in schools short-change students and disproportionately shortchange minorities in under-funded schools.

Andover and Exeter send their graduates to the Ivy League not just because all their students are affirmative action babies like George Bush; their students do well in part because these schools spend at least twice as much money per student as do regular public schools.

Show me a voucher-loving politician who talks about how wonderfully cheap parochial schools are and I'll show you a politician who has enrolled his own kids in Sidwell Friends or lives in an affluent, nearly all-white suburban school district where the per capita spending is twice the national average.

I hate to sound like Pat Buchanan here, but the reality is that black students with good grades and average SATs are already getting into the Harvards and Yales. Blacks with average grades and thoroughly rotten SATs are getting into top public schools in every state.

SATs are not holding back black students. The real culprits are crummy grade schools and under-funded high schools.

Perhaps the NAACP could reassign its team of researchers currently watching TV all day long, counting minority characters, to focus on the real problem of funding. ■

## Velvet Rope at the Bush's Big Tent

George W. Bush talks a good game about being inclusive and reaching out to Hispanics and other minorities - "big tent" and all that. But he has refused to meet with the Log Cabin Republicans, a group of gay members of the GOP.

Now I don't think a candidate should be faulted for failing to meet with every organized group that wants an audience with an almost-president. If Bush says he is too busy to meet with The Marxist Coalition for Left-Handed Laotians, then I'm willing to cut him some slack.

But the Log Cabin Republicans are a REPUBLICAN organization. It is an established organization with chapters throughout the country. They have many wealthy members who have given their time and money to Republican candidates at every level, including to George Bush Sr.'s presidential campaign.

Here is W's rationale on Meet the Press for not giving face time to the Log Cabin Republicans:

"I am someone who is a uniter, not a divider. I don't believe in group thought, pitting one group against another. And all that does is create kind of a huge political, you know, nightmare for people."

First of all, what the hell does that mean? Second of all George, be more specific. When you say "nightmare for people," you mean a nightmare for you. And the nightmare is that if you meet with the Log Cabin Republicans, then the vicious, homophobic, hate-mongering Religious Right who have tremendous influence in your party will tear into you.

Personally, I don't think George W. hates gays. He strikes me as the sort of self-serving person who as a young man would have run the numbers and figured out that the more gay men there are in the world, the more women would be available for George Bush. Nor do I think his idea of fun is getting together with a couple of friends, finding a Matthew Sheppard, then beating and killing him.

It's just that George wants to be president more than he wants to end the violence against gays. And if he has to stoke the flames a little and a handful of gay men are lynched, hanged, or disemboweled in the process of Bush coming to power, hey, well, it will all work out for the greater good in the end, right?

After all, he is going to cut the capital gains tax. ■

**TJ Walker is** the Producer of TJWalker.Com, a news and information service that provides daily radio, television, and text news and perspective. A syndicated columnist and news analyst, Walker frequently appears on the Fox News Channel, MSNBC, Court TV and talk radio programs around the country.

Formerly, Walker worked for Congress and as the Director of Communications for the Florida Department of Banking and Finance. He graduated magna cum laude from Duke University. Walker was raised in North Carolina and resides in New York City.



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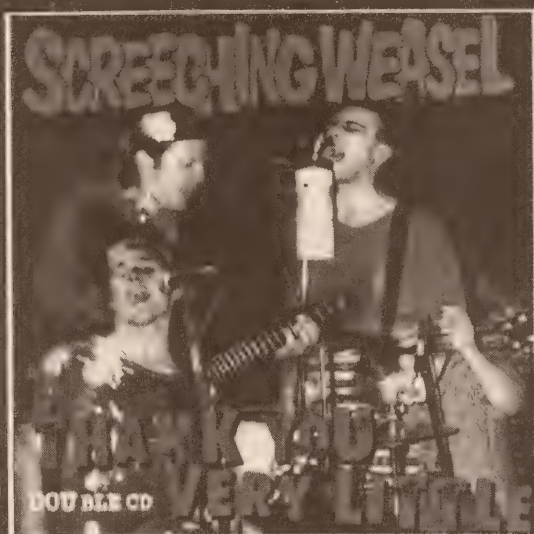
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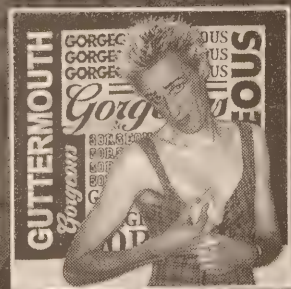
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## POKÉMON is the Fruit of the Devil

When I was 9 years old, the Transformers™ were the center of the universe. My playmates and I spent countless hours on the playground pretending to transform ourselves into the Optimus Prime™ rig, the Wheeljack™ sports car, the Ratchet™ ambulance, and a whole slew of other amazing shapes that are physically impossible for the human body to contort itself to emulate. Those robots on TV did it pretty effortlessly, I'll tell you what.

A couple years later, the Transformers™ movie emerged, and I watched in horror and excitement as the lives of many of my favorite characters ended suddenly in the great battle for Autobot™ City in 2005. What a cool thing, I thought then, that the makers of Transformers™ would make such a bold change to the show's universe and kill off so many characters. I was blissfully unaware when all the defunct Decepticons™ were rescued, repaired by Unicron™, and given entirely new bodies, that a giant capitalist venture was underway to sell me a new line of toys: Cyclonus™, Scourge™, and the Sweeps™.

It pisses me off nowadays to peruse that old movie and see nothing more behind it but a cleverly sculpted one-and-a-half hour commercial. I feel raped, used, and stepped on by mainstream toy marketing - an unwitting slave, although a part of me (which may never die) still loves the Transformers™.

The same thing happened in my days of junior high, where Nintendo deeply drove their meat hooks into my young, unformed thirst for play and sold me Super Mario Bros.™ and The Legend of Zelda™. Come to think of it, were it not for all the other cool kids at school gaping at their "Nintendo Power" magazines, I might not have been pressured into purchasing toys.

Nowadays, I watch my 7-year-old little brother walking around the

house singing, "Gotta catch 'em all, gotta catch 'em all - Pokémon™!!!" I watch him glued to the Nintendo Game Boy™ portable gaming device with the Pokémon™ cartridge in it, bottom lip hanging open as though his motor control has ceased to exist, ignoring my mother's calls to dinner in order to capture a few more seconds of Pokémon™ bliss. Now I'm guilty of the same things in my childhood, so this isn't a reaming of my little brother's manners. It's another "shame on corporate America" thing. I'm fond of those - because those rat bastards really need a kick in the ass for stealing the wonderful hours of our children's youth away, making their play more imitative than imaginative. I don't have a single one of my Transformers™ left, and my parents no doubt dropped hundreds of dollars on these plastic pieces of corporate turd. Kids have no clue

whatsoever, and toy manufacturers know it. They depend on it. Joe Camel™ doesn't hold a candle to the kind of atrocities toy retailers perpetrate in trying to peddle their cast-molded wares of hellspawn.

I know what some of you are thinking: "Oh, there goes Pflaster again, picking on corporate America. Geez, Don, don't you realize that it's just the nature of capitalism? The people who work for these corporations mean well. They're trying to maximize shareholder value and make the company the greatest one in the world." Uh-huh. Yeah, I understand. We live in an age of turbo capitalism, and everything revolves around money. I just *don't like* it, though.

Adam Curry said that he left his job as an MTV veejay when he started hearing things like, "We're not buying enough videos from Warner Bros." My man Adam saw clearly that the spirit of MTV was on the decline. When I see Nintendo in bed with Burger King selling these infernal Pokémon™ thingamajiggers, I want to vomit in five fashion colors. You know it's really out of hand when parents beat the living fuck out of each other trying to secure the last Furby™ off the store shelf two minutes after Toys R' Us opens. Such a scene is simply sick.

One only needs to step into Times Square, the epicenter of popular culture, to be completely overwhelmed by the disgusting pursuit of excess. Capitalism is not without its charms, but a large part of making it work is responsibility, something the human race has had trouble with for... oh lets see... the beginning of humanity.

So as you walk about your day, take a note of how polluted the earth gets when a conglomeration of money-hungry monkeys take over the earth. Behemoth conglomerates are too big for anyone to stop - the only people who will ever rise to the top are those who actually care about the boring fucking business world enough to make it work for them. The very best any of us can hope to do is to not support the filth they over-peddle, but of course, it isn't our choice. What will Christopher think if his parents don't love him enough to buy him a Pet Rock™? ■





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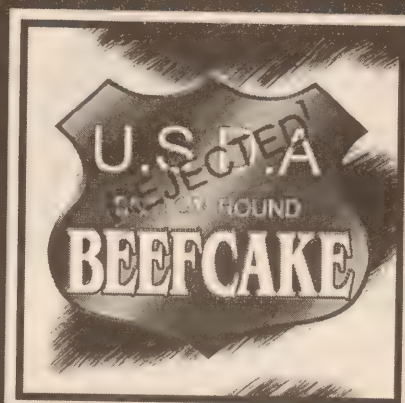
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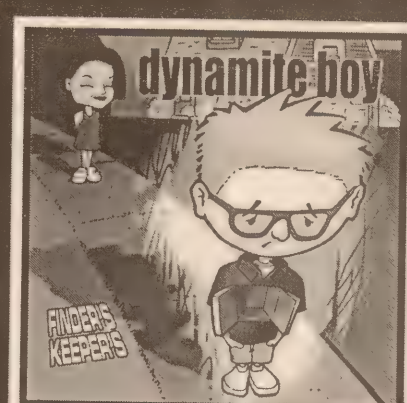
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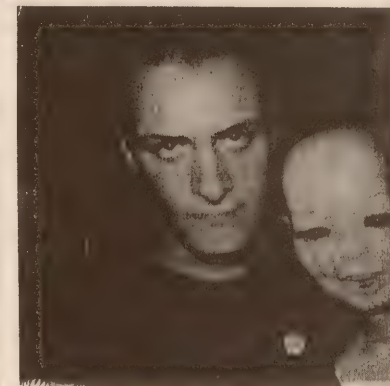


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
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# These Are Not God's Eyes

By Reginald S. Lewis

**IMAGINE BEING A PERMANENT RESIDENT** of a small, densely populated town, patrolled around the clock by squadrons of cold-eyed, black-booted guards. At different intervals during the night, a powerful searchlight sweeps across the groups, across the rooftops and down the sides of the buildings. Endless spools of razor wire glistens atop the high stone wall. A security clearance is needed to pass through the steel and glass checkpoints. Every resident is frisked for contraband, shaken down. Three times a day, a head count is taken to insure that no one has escaped. Satellite dishes that reach across continents and computer modems that cut endless unobstructed highways through cyberspace – are banned.

In the mailroom, the employees are a fastidious brood that perfunctorily sifts through mail before it is delivered to the citizens. Recipients of letters questioning authority are rounded up and thrown into isolation. The slightest glimpses of flesh in photographs, mailed to spouses or loved ones, can fit the narrowest definition of pornography – and are destroyed. Drug-sniffing dogs are brought in for larger, suspicious looking packages. Magazines and newspapers of "questionable content" are microscopically examined, then sent onto the "Publications Review Committee" for further deliberation and final judgement. And, do not use the telephone. The automated system is connected to a single line that serves the entire town. A pre-recorded voice – cold and impersonal – warns the callers that "this call is being monitored and recorded."

It is so easy to envision these harsh conditions being imposed upon the inhabitants in oppressed countries like China, Bhutan, North Korea and Iran. Yet, this is a cold, daily reality for thousands of inmates trapped in the industrialized prison gulags across America. This is the direct result of the rhetoric and dispassion of vote-getting politicians projecting their fears onto the larger society, where the automatons who control the prison bureaucracies are plucked. They are the sole architects of the repressive policies. They are your neighbors, your friends, who pass you on the street, say "Good morning" and sit beside you in Church. Great cruelty seethes beneath the thin veneer of polite civility. But doesn't history, and the tragic events of the present, remind us how the fanatical politics of men who lust for power and dominion over his Countrymen can effect the entire world?

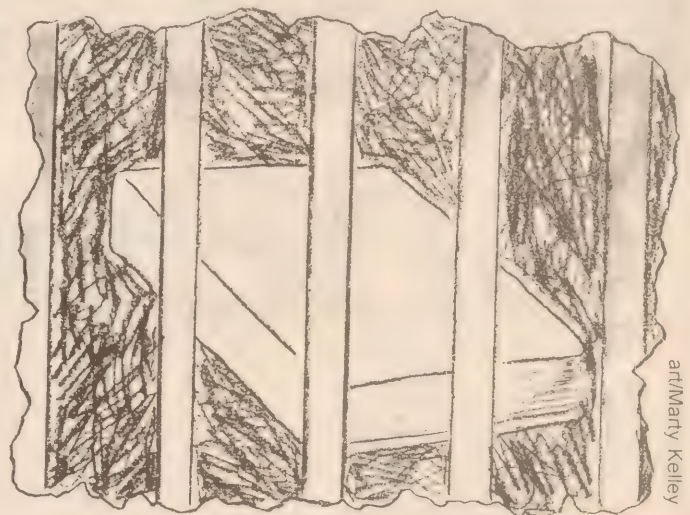
If the free expression of art is the revolution of the people – the vehicle for radical change – then the danger of censorship, anywhere, is that it is often a deliberate attempt to suppress the voices of minority artists and other "undesirables."

Just ask Rudolfo Anaya, whose book "Bless Me, Ultima" was recently banned by the Laton Joint Unified School District in California. The parents of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade English students cited the flimsiest reasons in support of the book's ban – it uses vile Spanish language, glorifies death, the practice of witchcraft and sex promiscuity. Mr. Anaya said, "I think it's symptomatic of a backlash

against any literature or art that has to do with our [Chicano] community. Some people don't want to adapt these things into our curriculums... There's an element out there that is very fearful of our culture. We have to be vigilant."

Mr. Anaya could have easily argued that the banning of his novel was an extremist reaction to the recent school massacre in Littleton, Colorado – a tragedy of national proportions. On talk shows, a gaggle of conservative mandarins debated vociferously with free speech advocated. On Capitol Hill, the Republicans blamed the usual suspects – it was those dirty rap lyrics, Marilyn Manson, Steven Spielberg, those decadent Hollywood movies, the lack of school prayer, the breakdown in family values. The right-wingers introduced flurries of bills. They were defeated, justifiably so.

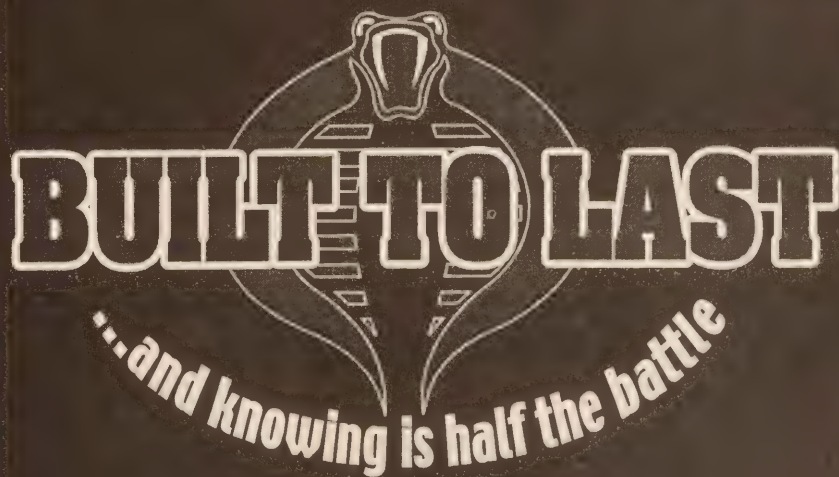
But the sovereignty of the artist cannot be subjugated by oppressive wardens seeking to imprison the intangible creation of human thought and the free flow of ideas. Censoring speech, literature and art is just dead wrong. ■



**Reginald S. Lewis** is in on death row in Pennsylvania for a 1983 murder. The facts of the case point to his innocence: At the time of the murder, Lewis was in California visiting relatives; Documents (including bus tickets and sales receipts) were removed by police from Lewis' briefcase between the time of his arrest and the trial, never to be seen again; The court appointed attorney, although allotted \$2500 to ensure several witnesses to Lewis' presence in California would testify, only secured one witness Lewis' brother; Lewis' case was heard before an all-white jury and the judge was Albert F. Sabo, who has sent more black defendants to death row than any other acting judge (he also sentenced Mumia Abu-Jamal). To contact Reginald S. Lewis write to: Reginald S. Lewis, #AY2902, 1040 E. Roy Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090



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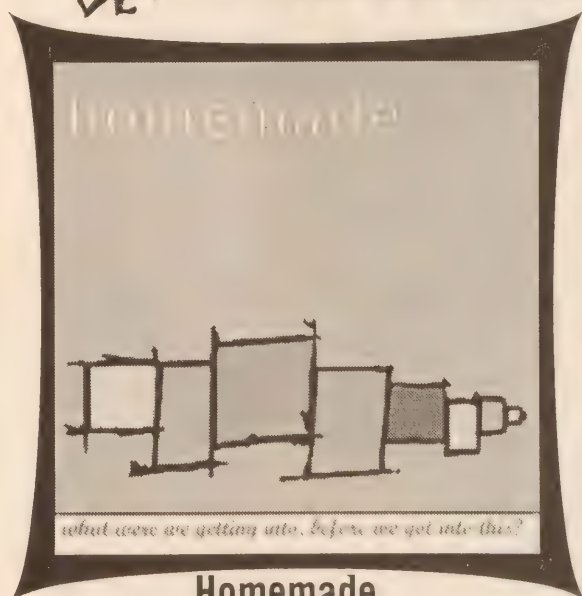
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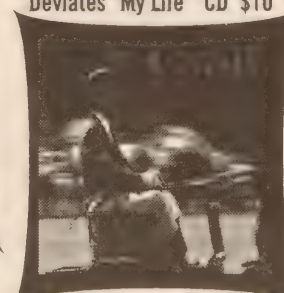
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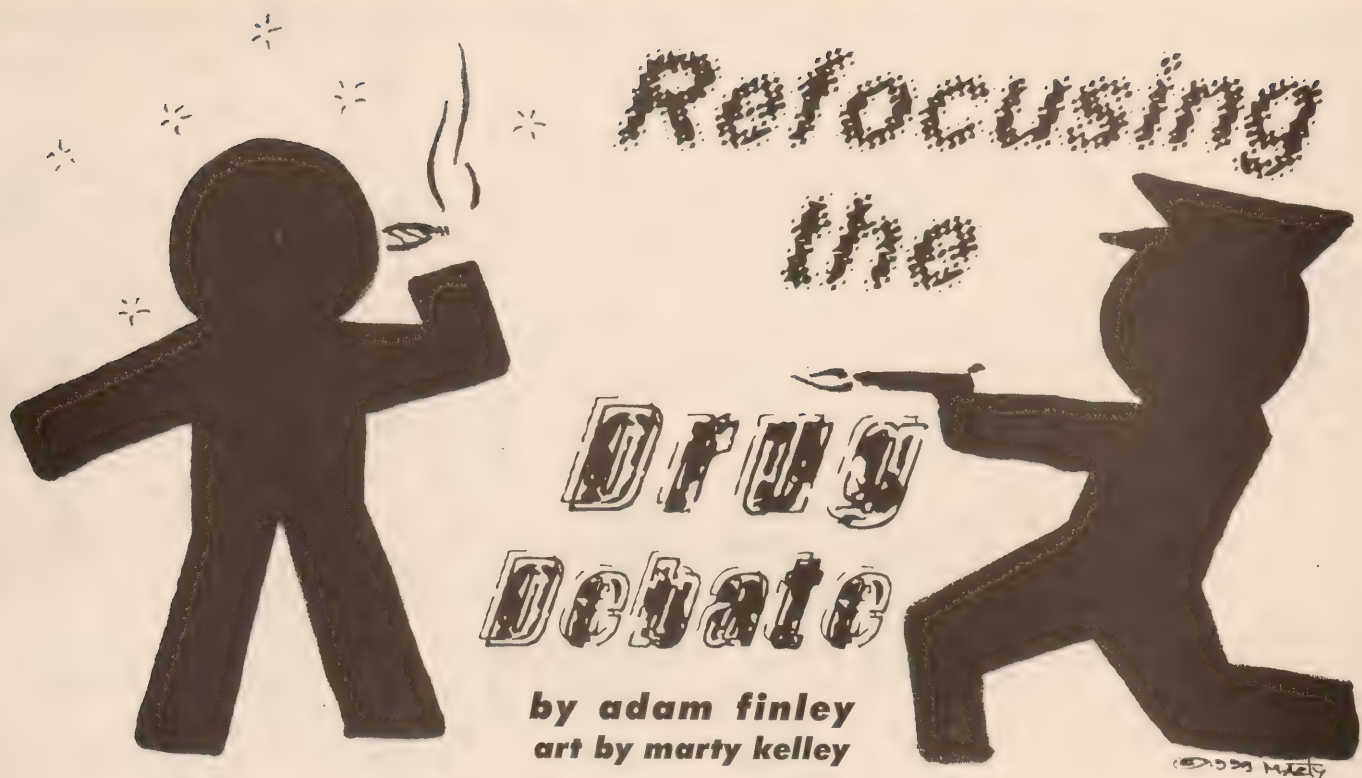
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**THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE REMAINING** who feel the War on Drugs is doing any good, or ever has done any good. On the other side of the coin, there are less and less people who believe drugs are as benign as alumni of the Timothy Leary school would want us to believe, either.

Granted, so-called "gurus" such as Leary and Ken Kesey were more interested in the creative/spiritual effects of LSD than anything else, but their insistence on the drug's benevolence was undoubtedly what caused problems for those acid freaks who couldn't seem to reach the same plain as everyone else. Other people at the time warned that LSD wasn't for everybody. Aldous Huxley thought it should only be used by "intellectuals," but why deny the masses such a Zen-ful experience?

The result, which is still unfurling (and will continue to do so) today is that some dropped acid with amazing results, while others were transported to places they simply weren't equipped to handle. It is this little piece of drug history that serves as the perfect example of the problem with drugs today: lack of information.

There's information out there, but it seems to come from only two places: those who believe illegal drugs are a serious problem, and those who believe they're not remotely as bad as the first group believe.

This is of course an exaggeration. There are infinite belief systems out there when it comes to illegal drugs, but it is these two which have saturated the media for the past several decades.

And so it goes, and is still going.

This entire article could be filled with this perpetual tete a tete, and indeed, the argument over drugs has never ventured beyond this "yes they do/ no they don't" discussion.

So what is left to say?

This: Drugs themselves, and what they do to each individual is not black and white. In fact, it is an excruciatingly gray area. Recognition of this is key in explaining why we've never been able to come to any kind of solid agreement. Accepting this means disregarding such timeless bromides as "I only smoke marijuana because it's safer than cocaine or heroin."

This statement is true, presumably. Nevertheless, one doesn't have to look far to find a "pot head" who has smoked his life away because his infatuation with getting high has taken precedence over everything else. Nor does one have to travel far to find an energetic, self-starting go-getter in a steady job who goes home every night and does lines until three in the morning.

Then again, maybe this is the wrong comparison to make. Cocaine may actually be safer than marijuana. At least, studies may prove this in a few years. If we wait long enough, for the right information, and the right newspaper run by the right corporation...cocaine might turn out to be relatively harmless. In 1996, journalist Gary Webb uncovered a coalition between the CIA and cocaine traffickers, a plot which was used to finance the contra war in Nicaragua. The result was what became known as the "crack plague," and, because abuse of the drug was found among the media and Hollywood elite, the rest of the nation had no choice but to brace themselves for an onslaught of anti-crack television and print ads. Crime became directly linked to crack itself, and, not surprisingly, everyone followed suit in branding crack as "the most dangerous drug of all."

Michael S. Gazzaniga, Professor of Neuroscience at Dartmouth Medical School, in an interview in the February 5, 1990 issue of National Review, had this to say about the so-called "criminal ele-



ment" in crack:

Let's begin by making it clear what crack is. It is simply cocaine that has been mixed with baking soda, water, and then boiled. What this procedure does is permit cocaine to be smoked. Now any drug ingested in this way — i.e., absorbed by the lungs— goes more efficiently to the brain, and the result is a quicker, more intense experience. This is what crack gives the consumer. But its impact on the brain is the same as with plain cocaine and, as a matter of fact, amphetamines. No one has ever maintained that these drugs are "crimogenic."

Why bother trying to collect information for an article on illegal drugs when every article seems to contradict the last one? Why bother asking so-called "experts" when no one will speak honestly? If the War on Drugs and the criticism spawned from it have taught us anything it's that one should never, under any circumstances, consider an alternative solution.

Advocates of drug legalization, including Los Angeles writer Peter McWilliams, who has penned out his own fury against the War on Drugs *ad nauseum*, base their anger on several factors. One of the most common being the blatant racism which has spawned from —and indeed seems a natural part of— our current drug legislation.

Noam Chomsky, in an interview in the April 1998 issue of High Times Magazine, defined the problem as this:

[Look] at the trend lines for marijuana. Marijuana use was peaking in the late '70's, but there was not much criminalization. You didn't go to jail for having marijuana then because the people using it were nice folks like us, the children of the rich. You don't throw them into jail any more than you throw corporate executives into jail—even though corporate crime is more costly and dangerous than street crime. But then in the '80's the use of various "unhealthy" substances started to decline among more educated sectors: marijuana and tobacco smoking, alcohol, red meat, coffee, this whole category of stuff. On the other hand, usage remained steady among poorer sectors of the population. In the United States, poor and black correlation—they're not identical, but there's a correlation—and in poor, black and Hispanic sectors of the population the use of such substances remained steady.

So take a look at those trends. When you call for a War on Drugs, you know exactly who you're going to pick up: poor black people. You're not going to pick up rich white people: you don't go after them anyway. In the upper-middle class suburb where I live, if somebody goes home and sniffs cocaine police don't break into their house.

It's important to say, briefly, that racism has always been a factor in passing laws against drugs. In the 1800s, laws against opium were passed because the drug was linked to the Chinese. Cocaine became associated with blacks, marijuana with Mexicans and LSD with the counter culture.

For those who aren't interested in playing the race card in this discussion, the problem remains, regardless. At this point in the

War, no one is safe. Laws are becoming more and more strict as the drug problem has increased.

But, comes the reply, if the drug problem is worsening, then we need stricter laws.

Actually, this has always been the reply. But drug laws, as a boot meant to stamp out drug use, only serve to worsen the problem by pushing drugs into the black market where they are more readily available, unregulated, and the user is almost always misinformed about the risks (or for that matter, the benefits) of the drugs he/she is purchasing. The more pressure this boot applies, the worse the problem becomes, and the worse the problem becomes, the more pressure the boot applies.

The United States has a unique approach to the drug problem, in that it has turned it into a moral, rather than a legal, issue. Chomsky notes: "The United States is one of very few countries where this is considered a moral issue. In most countries, it's considered a medical issue. In most countries you don't have politicians getting up screaming about how tough they're going to be on drugs."

The problem with drugs, from a moral standpoint, is that they deteriorate the very moral fiber that holds this great nation together. A perfect example of this is the increasingly common practice of making employees submit to drug tests when applying for jobs, or even after they've been employed. The reason is to keep drug users (who are always bad) out of the work place. Or, why have someone tripping on LSD running the switch? Drug testing just makes sense, after all.

The point trying to present itself here is not whether drug testing makes sense or not. But that if drug use was not a moral issue, drug testing would not be as prevalent as it is today (nor as random). But it's not just drug testing. Anyone associated with drugs of any kind are immediately stamped as a less-than-moral individual. Forcing all drug users into this category severely narrows perception, which is a terrible thing to have happen on either side of the argument, and a crippling blow that halts any and all discussion about the issue.

One "solution" then, is to simply legalize drugs. Take them out of the hands of the kingpins, sell them via pharmacies, and tax them heavily. Chomsky, in the same High Times interview, had this to say about drug legalization: "Nobody knows what the effect would be. Anyone who tells you they know is just stupid or lying, because nobody knows. These are things that have to be tried, you have to experiment to see what the effects are."

Let's speculate, then. Assuming illegal drugs are made legal, and by legal we mean heavily regulated, can people be trusted to not abuse them?

The answer is most likely "no." No more than we can trust pregnant women not to smoke cigarettes, despite the fact that the effects it has on unborn children is widely known. Mere knowledge of a substance's dangers is not enough, not when the immediate satisfaction of taking it has such euphoric results.

Dr. Rizwan Shah began the infant treatment program at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, IA in 1989. Since 1993, she has treated 368 newborns who were exposed to methamphetamines. Older children who were exposed to



methamphetamines *in utero* may have attention deficit disorder, hyperactivity, learning disabilities and unprovoked fits of anger. These children are often put up for adoption, where their chances of being adopted, in the physical and emotional state they're in, are nil.

Cases such as these are no doubt far greater in major cities, but what this serves to tell us is the drug problem is in fact a national concern. It also serves as a strong counterpoint to the argument for legalization. Legalizing methamphetamines would not reduce tragedies such as these, because people already know the risk, just as they know the risk associated with smoking cigarettes. McWilliams writes: "[Should we ban] cigarettes? No. It's education, not prohibition, that makes constructive change. Remember when cigarettes were considered glamorous, sophisticated, and even healthy? No one believes that now. Through education alone, more than 40,000,000 Americans have quit smoking."

McWilliams, himself a smoker, is simply pointing out that smoking, despite its dangers, is still a personal choice (and in fact, ingestion of any substance should be a personal choice as well). It's not, however, a choice to everyone, as Dr. Shah has clearly shown us. Trends like this will continue, regardless of whether drugs are made legal or not. But it would be impossible to convince someone who has seen the effects drugs have on innocent victims that those same substances should be made readily available to everyone.

Is there a conclusion to be made here? Not a definite one, that's certain. The more zero-tolerance laws are passed, the deeper the problem becomes embedded in society, but a mere lifting of drug

legislation will not solve every problem either, and in fact, some of the more serious problems associated with drug use (children born with a dependence to crack or some other drug) will continue regardless. Unfortunately, too much attention is focused on the "victimless" aspects of drug usage, which takes attention away from the more serious problems, of which there are many.

Are drugs as evil as we've been made to believe? They're not any worse than a loaded gun locked safely in an empty room. But like that gun, what some people choose to do with them certainly is. Therefore, the debate continues. ■

## Make an IMPACT

### Anti-Drug War

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana

Laws: <http://www.norml.org>

Drug Policy Foundation: <http://www.dpf.org>

The Lindesmith Center: <http://www.lindesmith.org>

### Pro-Drug War

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions: <http://www.cadca.org/>

DEA: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/>

Drug Free America: <http://www.drugfreeamerica.org/>

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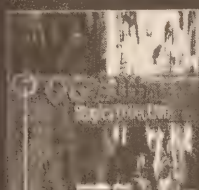
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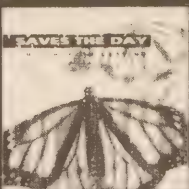
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BY  
 MORRIS  
 SULLIVAN

ART BY: MARTY KELLEY

# CREATIONISM: MONKEYING WITH SCIENCE EDUCATION

## *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

In 1925, in a little town in Tennessee, a schoolteacher named John T. Scopes was prosecuted for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in a public school. The press called it the "Monkey Trial" because of the popular misconception that Darwinism taught that man's ancestors were monkeys. Scopes was defended by Clarence Darrow, a now-legendary criminal attorney.

Scopes lost the case; his sentence was a fine of \$100. By the time the state supreme court overturned the conviction, most of the world had been forced to take sides in a clash between religion and science. For some, the Biblical version of creation was the only possible one; any admission that man might have come into existence by other means was tantamount to questioning the very existence of God.

The Scopes trial serves as a great example of losing the battle but winning the war. While he lost initially and the law stayed in the Tennessee statutes until the 1960s, most of America began to accept that the scientific method would often reveal a glimpse of the workings of the universe that would contradict the Biblical explanations. Of course, this wasn't the first time the world had seen that happen. It happened, too, when the Pope forced Galileo to recant his teachings that the world was not, in fact, the center of the universe.

*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was*

*hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*

Now, due to the efforts of a handful of activists armed with a set of faulty "evidence," education about the source of creation is in danger of being plunged back into darkness. For several years, "creationism," a movement made up of religious-minded scientists and others has pushed state school boards to require public school science programs to teach "alternative theories" about creation.

A little over a decade ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states cannot teach the belief that a divine power created the universe. However, three states have begun to de-emphasize evolution in their curricula. The most dramatic example is Kansas, whose school board has adopted new science testing standards. Caving in to pressure from creationists, the state has revised the set of information that its students are expected to know and understand. No longer will Kansas students be expected to understand the theory of evolution. Incidentally, they are no longer expected to know anything about the big bang theory, either.

States generally derive their education standards from academic bodies that stay current on important information, and look to these organizations for guidance when creating their testing standards. School Boards then look to the testing standards for guidance when creating their curricula. Teachers are advised to tailor the contents of their course planning to prepare their students to meet the testing standards. For all practical purposes, therefore, dropping a topic from the testing standards removes it from the coursework.



The Kansas State Board of Education applied to the National Research Council, American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Teachers Association for permission to incorporate portions of their published science standards into the Kansas Science Education Standards. After reviewing the Kansas standards, the organizations denied that permission.

A joint statement released in September of 1999 by the three organizations says that "the Kansas standards effectively eliminated consideration of any aspects of evolution that examine the origins of the Earth and life and processes that may give rise to the formation of new species...(and) adopted a position that is contrary to modern science..."

Further, the statement points out a component of the creationist agenda—to show weaknesses in the hypotheses about the extinction of dinosaurs—and identifies "at least an implicit attempt by the Kansas State Board of Education to undermine a currently accepted body of knowledge. In fact, data gathered and analyzed by scientists from many disciplines lend increasing weight to the prevailing ideas about how dinosaurs became extinct."

According to a separate statement released by the National Academy of Sciences, "... many scientific explanations have been so thoroughly tested and confirmed that they are held with great confidence. The theory of evolution is one of these well-established explanations. An enormous amount of scientific investigation since the mid-19th century has converted early ideas about evolution proposed by Darwin and others into a strong and well-supported theory. Today, evolution is an extremely active field of research, with an abundance of new discoveries that are continually increasing our understanding of how evolution occurs."

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*And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.*

---

The creationists only won a partial victory in Kansas—the de-emphasis of evolution. Their ultimate goal is that "creationism" will be taught instead of, or at least alongside, the big bang and evolution. They argue that evolution is only a "theory". As such, its no more scientific than the Biblical version of creation. Lots of people, who would like to believe Genesis' version, agree. However, for most, their agreement is based on a misunderstanding of the term "theory."

Many people use the term "theory" as a synonym for "opinion." However, in a science classroom, "theory" means something very specific. A scientist formulates a hypothesis which may explain a phenomenon. He or she then tests the hypothesis through some means of experimentation or seeking supporting evidence. If the hypothesis passes the test, then it is tested again and again by other scientists to see if it passes it consistently. If the testing supports the hypothesis over and over, it becomes a theory. If it doesn't pass consistently, another hypothesis is sought. Sometimes, a better hypothesis comes along that explains more or better. In that case, the old theory is discarded and the new adopted.

A theory should not only explain what *has* happened, but predict what *will* happen. Theories about the Earth's movement in the heavens, for example, accurately predict when the sun will rise. In science, a theory must be tested using empirical means. In other words, at some point, the scientist must be able to perceive evidence for the theory with normal human senses. Even then, the theory is not considered "fact" unless it becomes somehow empirically observed. For instance, the theory that the earth is round can be "proved" either by travelling all the way around it or by flying into space to look. Only then does it become fact.

In science, there are relatively few "facts."

---

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

---

Religion is another matter. Religion—or at least Christianity—insists that certain things be considered facts, based purely on faith. In other words, you are supposed to believe, just because the religious view says so. The faithful will tell you, for example, that God exists in fact, in spite of the total lack of empirical evidence for God's existence. If pressed for evidence, they will come up with a series of irrational statements like, "Well, the world couldn't possibly exist unless God made it," or "There has to be a reason for all this to exist." According to the religious world-view, too, all of creation exists for the benefit of man.

In truth, of course, there are alternative explanations for the Earth's existence, lots of things happen for no reason, and there's no evidence that the universe exists purely for our enjoyment. For the fundamentalist who wants to believe every word of the Bible, however, life is a house of cards, with each card a tenet of faith. If you remove one card, the entire house collapses.

---

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

---

The Christian fundamentalists want desperately to cling to their faith. In order to do that, however, they must somehow reconcile science with the tenets of their faith. That's where Creationism comes in. Genesis says that the world, including the first man and woman, was created in six days. If you add together all the "begats" in the Bible, then you can determine its age at about 10,000 years, give or take a millenium. The goal of the creationists is to "scientifically" support Genesis' version of the creation and to "scientifically" disprove both the Big Bang Theory and Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

The creation scientists enjoyed a few victories in the early 1980's. For example, a 1981 Arkansas bill passed which required the teaching of "creation science" in schools, including "evidences and inferences that indicate sudden creation of the universe, energy, and life from nothing"; "the insufficiency of mutation and natu-



ral selection in bringing about the development of all living kinds from a single organism"; "separate ancestry for man and apes"; and "a relatively recent inception of the earth and living kinds." A similar law made it through the Louisiana legislature that year.

Fortunately, the courts overturned those laws. The presiding judge in the Arkansas case, William Overton, called the bill "a religious crusade, coupled with an attempt to conceal this fact" and that "both the purpose and effect...is the advancement of religion in the public schools."

However, that has not deterred the creationists. Unable to get their own "theory" into the curricula, they simply changed strategy and began trying to get the competition eliminated. They attempt to accomplish this by using every chance they can get to debate and "disprove" the scientific theories. Their methods employ manipulation of fact and evidence; they also rely upon the relative ignorance of their non-scientist audiences and their listeners' strong desire to "believe".

---

*God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

---

Evolution is a scientific theory; the Biblical story of creation is a myth. When you attempt to transform mythology into science, you only succeed in reducing it to so much horse-shit.

Myths contain truths. Those truths, however, are not in the nature of scientific reasoning. Instead, those truths take the form of allegory, of metaphor, of poetry. They bind us to one another and help us understand who we are. The Biblical story of creation is a powerful myth. Reading the verses of Genesis helps us feel the connection to the thousands of generations that came before us and our contact with greater mysteries than those sciences can resolve.

By trying to force fit those same verses to scientific reasoning, however, you defeat their purpose—you make them ridiculous.

---

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—and it was the sixth day.*

---

In the U.S., much of the power that legislates our day-to-day activities still lies in the hands of the states, not the Federal government. That tradition has derived from the belief that, as William Jennings Bryan said in the 1920's, "the essence of democracy is found in the right of the people to have what they want." Because of the varying "wants" of populations scattered throughout the nation, it has long been assumed that state governments could best determine what the people want.

However, we have another tradition in our country—that all Americans enjoy certain rights. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in order to protect the rights of the minority; the founding fathers recognized that the whim of "the people" would at times

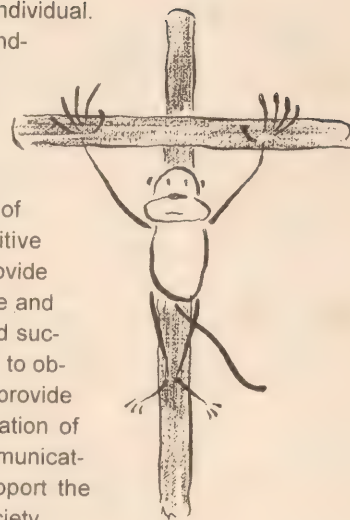
conflict with the rights of the individual. Perhaps unfortunately, the founding fathers did not include in their list the right to a good education.

One of the primary purposes of any society is the education of its children. The most primitive societies are structured to provide its children with the knowledge and skills necessary to survive and succeed: to hunt and gather food, to obtain shelter, to procreate and provide for their offspring. The education of the young also includes communicating those values that will support the continued existence of the society.

One or two hundred years ago, the education received by students in Kansas probably had little effect on residents of Florida, New York, and California. In fact, it was probably a good thing that much of education rested with the states, whose economies and industries varied so greatly. Today, the "global village" has virtually become a reality, and it has become imperative that our society ensure that all its children receive the best possible education.

"The best possible education" would include neither the deliberate teaching of horse-shit nor the deliberate withholding of information. As citizens of the global village, we should insist that all of our society's children learn the best and most current information, and should never have information withheld because it conflicts with someone's religious agenda.

The creationists are entitled to their rights to believe and express their opinions, no matter how cockamamie. However, for a public school system within America to deliberately deprive its students of knowledge or teach them shoddy science is almost criminal. All of us, whether parents or not, depend on the education of America's children to create our future. We need to start demanding that education will build the future we want to inhabit, and to use the courts and political systems as its architects. ■



## Make an IMPACT

### Pro Evolution

National Center For Science Education:

<http://www.natcensci.org/>

National Science Teachers Assoc.: <http://www.nsta.org/>

Institute of Human Origins: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/iho/>

### Pro Creationism

Institute for Creation Research: <http://www.icr.org/>

Creation Research Soc.: <http://www.creationresearch.org/>

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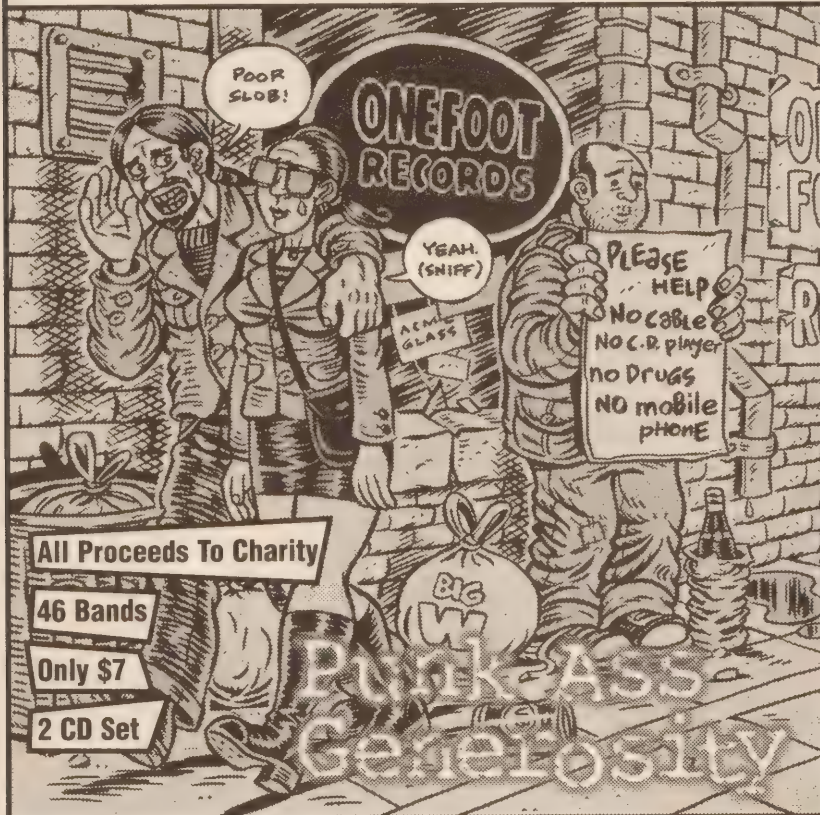


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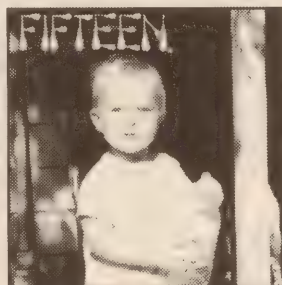


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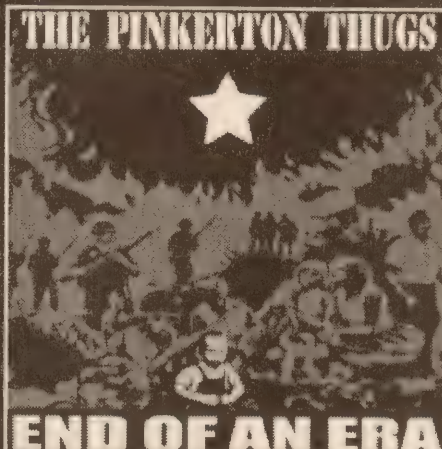


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# ☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

## CDs and more

**7 Notas 7 Colores • Buah! – The Mixes • Kool Arrow Records** • The first single from 7 Notas 7 Colores's debut album "Hecho, es Simple," gets the remix treatment. There are five versions of this song, including two different instrumentals, and an extra track, "Chico, no es un buen negocio." This is some of the best "Rap en Español" I've heard in a while.

**7 Notas 7 Colores • Hecho, es simple • Kool Arrow Records** • I've listened to "Hecho, es simple" three times in a row, and I'm going for a fourth. This is no ordinary rap group. Dive Dibosso lays down simple yet powerful beats that serve as a background for Mucho Muchacho's conversational rap style. I dare you to keep up with him as he recounts the struggles of living in Spain's working class. They are already one of Spain's highest grossing groups, with a second album already released in Europe. If you like in your face rapping by the likes of Control Machete, Molotov, or Illya Kuryaki y Valderramas, this album is for you.

**Against All Authority/The Criminals • Exchange • Sub City** • Florida's AAA and Cali's The Criminals team up to play some punk rock. This isn't a split CD where each band plays their own material. On this, the two bands play together, kicking out some uptempo punk rock with a snotty attitude. These two bands are very political and the album benefits the Berkeley Free Clinic and has information on cleaning needles. Buy it for the cause, listen to it for the music.

**All Systems Go • self-titled • Coldfront Records** • Returning to punk rock are John Kastner (ex-Doughboys), Frank Daly and Mark Arnold (both ex-Big Drill Car). I don't want to leave out their drummer Matt Taylor, either. The vocal duties are divided between John and Frank. Personally, I love Frank vocals, as I'm a long-time fan of Big Drill Car – and John has a damn good voice as well. The music is a blend of power-pop and punk rock, keeping mid- to uptempo pace and loaded with melodies. Bands like this can often end up sounding like a zillion others, but ASG has creative guitar work and tempo changes as well as distinct vocals that set them apart.

**Allscars • Introduction to Humanity • Slowdime** • Recorded during three different performances, Allscars are an improv band of sorts combining jazz, noise, ethnic rhythms and occasional vocals to form a unique sound. The result is often abstract and lacks an underlying melody, but showcases the creativity and musicianship of the many that participate. Instruments vary with each track and include keyboards, trumpet, maracas, guitar, pennywhistle, alarm clock, reeds and more.

**Aloha • The Great Communicators, the Interpreters, the Nonbelievers • Polyvinyl Records** • Aloha's new five song ep showcases the band's diverse array of sounds. Jazzy passages and prog rock flow together seamlessly. Aloha's use of instruments such as the vibes and synthesizers add greatly to the songs and their arrangements. I imagine these guys would be a very interesting live act, watching the musicians interact and seeing how the songs evolve in a live setting. This is very impressive.

**Alpha Plan • City of Bastards • Earwig** • This New Zealand trio is pissed, but that's a good thing for you and me. Alpha Plan serves up some angry, dark post-punk that recalls fellow Kiwi rockers Bailter Space. The band's performance is incredibly tight, with the rhythm section providing a solid foundation for John Howell's aggressive guitar work. Lyrically, Alpha Plan attacks the socioeconomic injustices of the modern world, with *City of Bastards* being a concept record centered around that general theme.

**Alt.Country • Exposed Roots • K-Tel Records** • I think I got slipped a mickie. This country compilation is hardly alternative country. Not that I'm an expert, but this sounds remarkably mainstream. Hell, I recognise a couple of the songs and I barely listen to country music. If you like country music, this is a nice mix of artists and styles. Nuff said.

**Althea • Ladders To Climb and Stones To Throw • Unshared Worldwide** • Hailing from the Tampa, Florida area, this three-piece has created powerful emo/indie rock. The emotional aspects of the music are intense and the vocals help to capture it. Some songs progress at a mid-tempo pace while others are a little more upbeat. Every song, though, drives forward in a progression that

continuously crescendos – a new energy revealed constantly.

**Amber • Amber • Tommy Boy** • Amber is a hot chick with a good voice. Luckily, she has more going for her than just that. With powerful vocals (sometimes reminiscent of Madonna), dance beats and a disco sensibility, Amber creates some very fresh sounds (ranging from upbeat to ballad-tempo). Factor in that she writes most of her own lyrics (rare in the dance music world) and she gains even more clout.

**Amen • Sunglow • Primal Music** • Amen are a Euro-synth dance music outfit. Not "electronic," but more in the vein of 80's dance groups the techno kids were wild about. This is danceable, with great electronic sounds and driving melodies and beats for all the new wave dance music fans. For all the accomplished bells and whistles, it's the dual vocals that win me over.

**American Steel • Rogue's March • Lookout! Records** • This is straight-ahead punk with some emo thrown in. I really dig the breakdown on "Every New Morning." It starts off like a regular churning, hooky punk breakdown and then really slows down to some emo sound before kicking it up again. And "One of these days" is really cool, too. Hell, it's just cool overall.

**Ann Beretta • To All Our Fallen Heroes • Lookout! Records** • Lookout! does it again. This new band (at least new to me) Ann Beretta is a kick-ass punk band out of Richmond, VA. They play around a little, touching on some Rockabilly and ska, and even slowing it down for a punk "ballad" on "Vengeance," but mostly it's straight-ahead punk. And good punk at that.

**Anthem Eighty Eight • Define A Lifetime • No Idea Records** • You might wanna put on a bullet proof vest or some armor before you listen to this – cause this hardcore assault can pierce skin. Featured are twelve tracks of intense, non-stop, pounding hardcore with breakdowns and tempo changes galore. The vocals are screamed and they fit the music perfectly. The lyrics are highly proactive, encouraging and empowering. Now that's good stuff!

**Apocalypse Hoboken • Inverse... Reverse... Perverse • Suburban Home** • This is a collection of old and new stuff and it is good. Fast punk with a pop-punk feel – this is a very easy to listen to disc. "Drunk Helen" and "Hopeless And Fucked" are two of the more noteworthy tracks on this 23 song disc. These guys have been rocking for a while and I hope to see more of them in the future.

**Apocalypse Hoboken • Microstars • Kung Fu Records** • The thing that attracted me to punk rock was that some bands – like the Circle Jerks and Fear – were more rock and roll than the rock and roll bands of the period. More sex, more gratification, more rage and destruction. Apocalypse Hoboken exceeds this bill. You can feel what they sing: the drunken coming delirium. Ahh, excess is best: get this lovely catchy disc.

**As Friends Rust • self-titled EP • Doghouse Records** • This band is a pleasant surprise. Hailing from Gainesville, Florida, these five fellas play powerful hardcore with emo influences. Tempo changes are constant and creative, flowing from point to point seamlessly. There's an energy that grabs you with every track, sucking you into the deep melodies and intensely good vocals. AFR also displays intelligence with personal and socially-triggered lyrics. Sometimes I hear old Fuel seeping through songs here and there – and that's a huge compliment. I can't wait to hear the full-length (out on Doghouse soon), 'cause five songs just aren't enough!

**Assholeparade • Student Ghetto Violence • No Idea Records** • These Gainesville rockers have released a compilation of "all of our previously released vinyl recordings." If you haven't heard these Florida freaks then you're in for some punishment. The music goes from hardcore to speedcore. The great thing about the music is the ability to put melody and hooks in songs this fast and intense. Little breakdowns here and there breakup the speedcore attack and create a more creative final product than just 30 seconds of screaming, pounding and strumming. Featured are 45 tracks and plenty of political attitude throughout.

**Aunt Beaph • 2000 AB • Crustacean Records** • And the winner of the "odd disc of the month" award goes to... Aunt Beaph! This is kind of like Mr. Bungle-metal but they mix it up with piano and goofy stuff to keep it lively. It's

different but good. If that's what you're after, stop reading now.

**Badtown Boys • Another Fine Day • New Red Archives** • Fast-paced punk music with a middle of the road attitude. The guitars are a bit meatier than you'd expect from a punk band, which gives "Another Fine Day" a bit of an edge. The title of the record implies not what the singer is experiencing, but rather what he wishes he could. Just listening to the lyrics reveals that he is actually having a rather bad day. Broken relationships, political unrest, and desperation are some of the problems he's experiencing on a regular basis. Hopefully the singing will get him feeling a bit better.

**Bane • It All Comes Down To This • Equal Vision Records** • Bane is a hardcore band out of the Northeast. They're not super-hardcore though. Well, I guess their songs are but they have these really cool interludes between songs that are really, musically speaking, amazing. Classical guitar, really great acoustic harmonics, they're almost chilling. It mixes things up very nicely and keeps you on edge. Nice disc.

**Beaver • Lodge • Man's Ruin Records** • Lately it seems that Man's Ruin has been enjoying a lucky streak, releasing record after record that completely rocks you out and leaves you on the floor, mouth agape. Beaver's "Lodge" is no exception. Tempos change, guitars hit bottom as you sway your head to the beat. If you like anything that has come out by Man's Ruin in the last few months, you'll like this one. Keep 'em coming!

**Beefcake • Rejected • Fearless Records** • When I first saw this disc I thought that I was about to be faced with yet another pack of no talent retards who write funny songs (Bob Sagat, I Hate You). Happily, I was wrong. They are retards who play quite well. They have talent coming out of their asses and they would probably show you if you were to ask them. This is a fun, cool disc.

**Believe It Or Nots • There's a Great Future In Plastics EP • Urine Records** • Out of Kansas comes this four-piece of anything but country. Featured on this five-song EP are power pop tunes in the indie vein. There's an energy in every song, furthered by tight, solid melodies that will get you singing along in no time. These guys have opened for such acts as The Get Up Kids and Vitreous Humor – great bands that they deserve to share the stage with.

**Big Wig • Stay Asleep... • Kung Fu Records** • I heard "Sellout" on the Serial Killer comp, and this CD has that track plus 13 more (14 if you count the hidden track). This is filled with anthemic yet critical hardcore and pop punk songs. To their credit Big Wig are accessible and positive yet don't sound like they're "bringing it back." I really dig this: the music rocks, the vocals are sung with emotion (check "Smile"), and the whole record exudes an optimism despite less than positive situations.

**Blanks 77 • C.B.H. • Radical Records** • This is old school raw punk rock. They make a big deal out of the fact that there are two punk lesbians making out in the cover, so I will pass along that information to you. Yippie Ding. There are some good tracks on this disc. Lots of energy and power. It's pretty good stuff.

**Blotorch • self-titled • Wicked World** • So much violence in the world. So many ways to destroy yourself or others. Personally I find it difficult to imagine them all. Not so Blotorch. In songs with titles such as "King of Karnage" and "Bloodstains(Canvas of a Switchblade Solution)" they cover several. There are 7 other tracks on their self-titled CD that pretty well cover the rest of them. That said, they're a tight band with thrashing guitar and drums. The harsh voiced lead singer growls out his malevolence with the confidence of a man who has yet to be sued by the parents of an idiot teen follower. Driving beats make you wanna thrash. Gory lyrics may make you wanna hurl.

**Bob Tilton • The Leading Hotels of the World • Southern Records** • Keying in on their aggressive indie rock stylings, Bob Tilton is ready to rock your world. This is a five-piece of British lads, none of which are named Bob or Tilton (the name is taken from that of an American evangelist TV star). Their sound is akin to that of Jawbox. The Dismemberment Plan and other indie-emo rock groups. But, Bob Tilton has a creative aggression all their own, with solid vocals and music that kicks your ass seconds after it lulls you into a melodic trance.

**Bob Tilton • Crescent • Southern Records** • I was really



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pumped about hearing this after reading their press release but, as it usually is, they don't justify the hype. This is emo rock that really didn't do much for me. Musically it's not bad, maybe a little too twangy, but the singer lacks a lot.

**Bozart • Kurth • Frenetic Records** • Bozart perform guitar and drum compositions for those interested in instrumentals. It's fairly accessible, yet laid back beats. Whether purposefully or not, the sound is recorded a bit too hot, creating an overmodulated effect. Their samples of communications equipment (cell phones, police radios) give the music a nice touch. BQE's rapping is also very good, although the skits that populate rap albums seemed a bit lame.

**BQE (Brooklyn Queens is Enough) • Live You & I • OPE Entertainment** • Straight out of the 718 area code, BQE (Brooklyn Queens is Enough) throws a lyrical brick at your head with their aggressive, yet laid back beats. Whether purposefully or not, the sound is recorded a bit too hot, creating an overmodulated effect. Their samples of communications equipment (cell phones, police radios) give the music a nice touch. BQE's rapping is also very good, although the skits that populate rap albums seemed a bit lame.

**Bright Eyes • Every Day and Every Night • Saddle Creek Records** • Every Day and Every Night is the latest effort from singer-songwriter Conor Oberst. Oberst's songs are reminiscent of East River Pipe's lo-fi home recordings with emotionally charged lyrics. The power of Oberst's lyrics coupled with his delivery is absolutely stunning. This is a hauntingly beautiful ep.

**Bughead • Kung Fu'd • Locked Groove** • I'm probably the wrong person to be reviewing this. I've seen Bughead for years now, seeing them where they started in downtown Ft. Myers, Florida to their current home of Orlando. I've never been impressed. They play some reggae/punk/funk/ska sound that has no originality and meanders all over the place. I guess they figure if you have all those good sounds and you put them together it should make a great sound, but not so. If they'd find one sound and stick to it they might be good.

**Built To Last • ...And Knowing Is Half The Battle • Resurrection AD Records** • Built To Last has a hardcore intensity that allows it to be a step above the rest. Capturing the melodic, old school hardcore feel and adding an emotional aspect, this five-piece creates a non-stop aural assault. All ten tracks are tight, fierce angst-filled tunes.

**Bustin'Roids • Sucka Punch • Fishbowl Records** • Another dumb song about a girl. This is track 2 of this powerSKA disc. This is a good disc from six dudes who really give their music their all. It is fast and fun. Reminiscent (in a strange way) of the VooDoo Glow Skulls.

**By A Thread • The Last of the Daydreams • Revelation Records** • By A Thread is a Canadian four-piece that has wrapped itself around my musical mind and devoured it. The melodies are deep-rooted and driving while the emotion seems genuine and empowering. The vocals are intense but not overdone or over-screamed. The guitar and bass parts are creative, intricate and ever changing. At the same time, the drums are pounded with a fierce intensity, not getting ahead of the mid- to fast-paced music and not forgetting the tempo changes keep the music interesting. If Sunny Day Real Estate could still rock, and I mean rock, this is what they'd sound like.

**Catch 22 • Washed Up! • Victory Records** • Ah yes, Don MacLean's "American Pie" covered by a ska-punk band. You just gotta love it. There's also a contest to attempt to decipher the lyrics of one of Catch 22's live favorites, "The Death of My Blood is Your Indulgence." Best of luck, kids. There are some hidden live tracks at the end of the disc for your listening pleasure as well. All in all, this is a very cool ep.

**Chigger • Trampoline • Satellite Records** • This is a five-song EP of indie pop. But it's not noisy, "didn't we just hear this song?" pop. It's fun, happy pop. Italia has a really pretty voice and the band is tight. It's a welcome change. Give your ears a treat.

**D.U.I. • The Assertion of Collaboration • Napalm Ape Records** • Kevin Allesee is the front man for this punk rock assault on your ears. Screamed/shouted vocals are delivered at a rapid pace while the speed-punk (think: DRI, Agnostic Front, etc.) music is forced into your brain. Although the sound is a bit amateur, recording quality isn't very important on a release with such an aggressive sound – in this case it is actually better that way.

**Daddylonglegs • Horse • Pussyfoot** • The album opens with a smoothed out beat that made me wish I was rollerskating. From there, the rhythm goes on and the music bounces from track to track – a mix of jazz and funk styles all put forth in an electronic format. Often opening with an ambient flow, every track seems to slowly drift into dope beats and mixes.

**DAMA • 2000A.D. • Eternity Records** • This is one of those discs that comes with a little explanation of each song. I hate those. If the song doesn't say what you want it to say, rewrite it. The music is heavy metal in the Stuck Mojo vein. It is okay, but not really special. It sounds almost as if they are trying too hard, like they are not enjoying what they are doing.

**Deadbolt • Voodoo Trucker • Headhunter Records** • Did you make it to that haunted house that played Rockabilly music this year? If so, the music you heard was Deadbolt. If you like Rockabilly/surf guitar rock, you should check this out. It's fun to listen to the music set to the story of the Voodoo Trucker. Beware the Mocker.

**Death on a Stick • Industrial-Strength Jazz • Just Cleveland's Past** • This retrospective chronicles the career of Cleveland's short-lived Death on a Stick. The Stick was a project of Cleveland area college radio dj's and friends in the mid-80's. The band's line-up changed frequently, adding to the diverse mix of sounds. There are elements of everything from psychedelic rock to free jazz and experimental noise. The Stick even covers artists such as Led Zeppelin and Thelonicus Monk. While not for those who enjoy well-defined melodies and three minute pop songs, Death on a Stick is an interesting listen. So, when's the reunion tour?

**Deep Reduction • self-titled • Get Hip** • Sounds ranging from '70 punk to The Doors to blues and pop. Deep Reduction refuse to be pigeon-holed in a particular style. Through and through, this album is rock – twelve great tracks worth.

**Divit • Low Speed Chase • Coldfront Records** • This is high energy punk with a definite hard edge. The sound is fast, raw and polished all at the same time. Thirteen tracks and some very cute Viking hats come together in a way that makes this disc an aural treat to feast your ears upon.

**DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid • Subliminal Minded EP • Outpost Recordings/Bar None Records** • In an effort to keep things in a constant state of change, DJ / roaming artist Paul Miller, a.k.a. DJ Spooky, releases *Subliminal Minded EP*, featuring deconstructed and reconstructed remixes of tracks from his last release, *Riddim Warfare*. Some of his guests (musical surgeons) include the Dub Pistols, Kevin Shields, Prince Poetry and Pharaoh Monche, Thuston Moore, Talvin Singh, Karsh Kale and DJ Wally. For those who enjoy DJ Spooky's mix of ambient, drum and base, hip hop, and illbient, this should hold you over just fine.

**Donovan's Brain • Eclipse and Debris • Get Hip Recordings** • It's been two years since *Eclipse and Debris* was completed, and now this double album is finally ready to be released. Recorded between 1995 and 1997, it features two different lineups and includes a guest appear-

ance by the Young Fresh Fellows on *Tad's New Cymbal Stand Skips The Tour*. Donovan's Brain's sound can best be described as pure psychedelic pop, with a few Beatles and Jimi Hendrix sounding parts. If you're into reverb and guitar effects, this CD is for you.

**Dragbody • Flip The Kill Switch • Now or Never Records** • With the legendary Steve Albini working the controls Florida's Dragbody delivers throat-slitting heart-stomping scream-core. Musically agile, Dragbody isn't just screams and speed, there's much more to the music – indie, emo and punk rock aspects keep this well above the rest.

**Dynamite Boy • Finder's Keeper's • Fearless Records** • Dynamite Boy is ready to explode through your stereo with killer power pop-punk tunes loaded with melodies, hooks, catchy choruses and girl-related lyrics. Dynamite Boy fits in the same class as Digger, Loose Change and the sappier ALL tunes. Whether you're feeling blue or just fell in love, you'll smile to this.

**Earlimart • Filthy Doorways • Devil in the Woods** • Earlimart takes its name from a small California town where kids have nothing better to do than put water balloons in the streets and wait for cars to run them over. (The water balloons, not the kids.) Well, this California quartet probably spent more of their time listening to music than engaging in childish pranks. *Filthy Doorways* is a diverse sounding record, with elements of indie rock, punk, and country for your listening pleasure.

**Edaline • I Wrote The Last Chapter For You • Law Of Inertia Records** • Edaline gathers ex-members from Nuisance, Kid Dynamo and Conspiracy. They play emo rock like it should be played: loud and passionate. Their sound is a cross between Sunny Day Real Estate, Hum and The Flaming Lips. Lyrically, *I Wrote The Last Chapter For You* deals with an unfortunate breakup, recounting the unfortunate evening. The booklet expands a bit on this, giving the reader/listener more insight into the episode.

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**Enemy You • Where No One Knows My Name • Panic Button** • I'll be frank here. As a rule, I do not particularly like Japanese punk. Maybe it's the cryptic and alarming lyrics. I don't know. When I saw a couple of Japanese guys in this band I thought, "Crap... More Japanese punk." Today's lesson is: Do not judge a band by its ethnicity. This is good pop-punk. It's catchy and bouncy and very well produced. This is a disc that you will want in your collection.

**Fifteen • Allegra • Sub City** • Whether you've seen 'em live before or not, you've got to get this record. Fifteen has an energy unlike any other band. It's a combination of great music and honest dedication to a cause that makes it so amazing. Jeff Ott is committed to being an activist and he won't let you forget it. He's got great things to say and he lets it all hang out on this live recording from a '96 show in Berkeley. A mix of punk rock and hippie attitude combines to form some great, melodic, uptempo rock.

**Grade • Under The Radar • Victory Records** • I am totally blown away by this powerhouse of an album. Grade is fierce and melodic at the same time. They can make you pound your fist and sway your hips in sync. Single songs travel from hardcore with screamed, intense vocals to a more emo sound with thick melodies and solid, well-sung vocals. At times, I wish the lead singer (Kyle) would not scream as much. He has such a great voice. Although, I understand the emotional intensity of it, sometimes it is just too much. In the end, though, I find myself enjoying both the screamed vocals and otherwise. This album is too damn good to be set back by something that minor.

**Handsome Boy Modeling School • So...How's Your Girl? • Tommy Boy** • Allow me to introduce, the gorgeous Nathaniel Merriweather and Chest Rockwell. You may know these "hotties" as Dan the Automator and Prince Paul. Welcome to the compilation of their look, feel and model schooling. As dope as their "good looks," Merriweather and Rockwell have enlisted such artists as Del Tha Funkie Homosapien, Encore, Mike D, Grand Puba, Dave from De La Soul, Sensational, DJ Shadow, EL-P from Company Flow and others. The result is a hot-ass mix of some of the freshest sounds in hip-hop today. One listen and you'll be better looking.

**Hate Eternal • Conquering the Throne • Wicked World** • The name of the band says it all. There's no doubt that they hate something or everything a whole lot. You have to admire the speed at which they play even if you can't discern a melody. Guitarist Erik Rutan has no mercy on his instrument and Tim Yeung, the drummer, must have at least two extra limbs to pull off his part. If you dig speed metal this is good, not great but good.

**Haywood • Men Called Him Mister • The Self-Starters Foundation** • If you take your time to let the jangle set in, it'll be too late and the rock will hit you. And you'll rock. And then you'll settle back in to more sentimental, heartfelt indie pop, only to be slapped with more rock. The music has a quirkiness that is familiar and the vocals have a shyness that is perfect. Each track flows naturally, nothing forced; a genuine piece of musical accomplishment. I have fallen in love with a man called mister, or wait, is it Haywood? Either way, this is a hell of a record. Throw away your lacking Archers albums and inconsistent Modest Mouse seven-inches and bite into something real.

**High School Sweethearts • Passing Notes • Get Hip** • Featuring powerful, lovely female vocals and pop melodies that make your toes tap, all sixteen tracks will transport you to the nearest sock hop. Ok, so maybe they're a little more punk than those Leave It To Beaver kids would like, but so what! This band includes ex-members of Electric Frankenstein and hardcore great Lifetime. As a bonus, Peggy Davison (original lead singer of '60s girl pop band The Angels) guests on a track.

**Himsa • Groundbreaking Ceremony • Revelation Records** • Prepare to be aurally assaulted by this five-piece from Seattle. Although they don't want to be labeled as a hardcore band, I think it's fair to say they are. Himsa, though, breaks boundaries of that label, creating pleasant and unpleasant sounds that combine to form intense works of musical mayhem. Emotional, politically-aware and furious, Himsa delivers energized rage ten-tracks deep.

**Hostile Omish • One Horse Power • Punge Records** • Sounding like a sloppier, less-skilled Dead Kennedy's, Hostile Omish deliver quick-paced tunes of stupidity. They lack any of the social commentary found in DK material, but the attitude and slop is right on point – even the vocals are Biafra-like at times. I think this band would be better live than they are recorded.

**I.C.U. • Mad Truth • Radical Records** • NYC's Intensive Care Unit is back with their third album, produced by Wharton Tiers (Sonic Youth, White Zombie, Helmet). Female vocals are the focus of ICU's melodic, sometimes heavy power rock. Pee Wee is a strong vocalist, delivering often insightful lyrics over simple, but intense riffs and a mid to uptempo beat (with a NYC punk feel). This is a solid release combining old school punk attitude and new school power rock.

**Jeremy Boyle • Songs From The Guitar Solos • Southern Records** • I'll be the first to admit I don't know much about ambient music. This being ambient, I can't rightfully say yea or nay. I can say that it's trippy though. Trippiest stuff I've ever heard, makes Enya look like a bore. It's actually pretty cool because it all revolves around old guitar rock – Kiss, Van Halen, Hendrix, etc. It's worth a spin.

**Jersey • The Battle's Just Begun • Fueled By Ramen** • At first listen, Jersey gave me the impression they were trying too hard to be hard. But their catchy pop punk numbers had me singing along in short time, and some shortbacks in life have shown that the fighting they sing about can be interpreted as a metaphor for the daily struggle and the need for mental (and physical) toughness to stay sane. And all this with male and female vocals! Give yourself the joy of Jersey this X-mas.

**Jonah's Onlinedrawing • Sketchy EP #1 • Crank! Records** • I was right! When I picked this up I thought "this looks like the worst one, it will probably be the best." This is one dude, his guitars, some other stuff and him just singing. It's cool, it's real and it's great. Side note, Jonah was the front-man for the great power-emo-rock band Far.

**Jughead's Revenge • Pearly Gates • Nitro Records** • As dynamic as you can be while playing punk music, Jughead's Revenge manages to change things up a bit here and there on *Pearly Gates*. Most of this CD is raw and aggressive, but these punk pranksters throw in some

surf rock (*Swell*), and a pretty good cover of The Cars' *Just What I Needed*. They do this quite on purpose, if only to piss off people who would like to tell them what punk music should sound like.

Julie Dorion and the **Wooden Stars • self-titled • Tree Records** • With a solid pop sense and an indie attitude, Julie Dorion brings her acoustic-styled guitar pop and vocal skills to the forefront. The music is intricate, weaving guitar parts in and out, drums pounding a steady rhythm with pre-

cision while the vocals sway strut, and slither along. Canada must be proud of this singer/songwriter/guitarist's ability to deliver smart, creative guitar-pop gems.

**King for a Day • Before I Go • Initial Records** • King for a Day's latest contains some new and old material. Two of the songs are from King for a Day's now out of print self-titled 7". The band plays a heavier brand of emo, and with very good results.

**Koufax • Koufax • Doghouse Records** • Koufax is the latest project from Rob Suchan, former frontman of the Leftovers. On this four song ep, Koufax skillfully incorporates keyboards into their emo-ish style. At times, they sound like a heavier version of the Rentals. The ep closes with the slow-building "So Long to You and I", a powerful ending for an impressive debut.

**Land Speed Record • The Corporate Secret • Resin Records** • Borrowing from Devo as well as the Talking Heads, Land Speed Record let you in on "The Corporate Secret." Before revealing this secret, they clue you in on some personal feelings. Whether it's having sex with fax machines ("Interoffice Copulation") or corpses ("Dead Girlfriend"), you know this Baltimore trio has more than its share of sexual "issues." Finally, after learning about "someone's" penile dysfunction ("Viagra Orgy") The Corporate Secret is revealed. Unfortunately, the secret is not actually so. You'll have to listen to find out.

**Lauren Hoffman • From the Blue House • Free Union Records** • This is a CD I didn't expect to appreciate so much. The songs have a catchy sensibility yet retain their own integrity. This is more reminiscent of 80's female fronted groups like Edie Brickell. Lauren Hoffman bowed me over with her vocal delivery and the accountability in her lyrics. The only slight I can say is that the acoustic tracks are a bit too folksy for me at times.

**Maharah • Chapter One: The Descent • Now or Never Records** • The guitar work on this hardcore-metal album is awesome – it soars, it throbs, it grinds. Each track drives forward with a killer intensity and intricate sound – layers of music throughout each song. If you're looking for something fierce, but you want something creative, skillful and definitely not the same old thing – bang your head to this.

**Men Of Porn • Porn American Style • Man's Ruin Records** • This band gets my vote for best name. Because, if you think about it, aren't we all men of porn? Featuring former members from Ritual Device, Acid King, Swans and Helios Creed, MOP ride a wave of distortion right into the middle of your cranial cortex. It is best described as "slaughterhouse muzak."

**Metropolitan • Side Effects • Crank Automotive** • Metropolitan catches you off-kilter from the very beginning, offering as a first track a haphazard nailing together of odd sound effects. But then this duo takes you into an amateurish but very emotional CD of sometimes-poppy, sometimes-soft music that's got some pretty impressive guitar and great lyrics.

**Misfits • Famous Monsters • Roadrunner Records** • I know that I sound like a suck-up, but Roadrunner is a kick ass label. They put out good shit and this is no exception. The Misfits have been around since the time of the dinosaurs (or at least disco) and though they are at least a decade older than me, they could kick my ass. The music is heavy and the lyrics are downright distasteful. I love it. This is the disc to buy this Christmas season. Give it to your Great Aunt Ethel. She'll love it.

**Mr. T Experience • Alcatraz • Lookout Records** • More than a decade has passed and Mr. T Experience's Dr. Frank still has a sense of humor. The punk in their pop-punk has toned down a little bit, letting the pop shine through, like in "Naomi," a radio friendly tune about author Naomi Wolf. Not all songs are the same, though. In fact, MTX wanted to achieve a different emotion with each song. So much so, that they went through the trouble of recording each song in a different setting, in one case actually making the room hotter to affect the vocals. "Alcatraz" is a CD that should allow MTX's music to reach new audiences without alienating old ones.

**Mutiny • Rum Rebellion • Hell's Ditch** • Though they've probably heard this a thousand times before, Mutiny sounds like an Australian version of the Pogues. *Rum Rebellion* is even released on the label Hell's Ditch, which is named for after the classic Pogues' album. But to dismiss them as being purely derivative would be quite unfair and totally inaccurate. Mutiny incorporates



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# ☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

their own Australian roots into the traditional Irish folk stylings, and the results are impressive. This comes highly recommended.

**Naïve • Post Alcoholic Anxieties • Kool Arrow Records** • You thought it was tough to be punk in the United States. Try Russia! Naïve really has problems to bitch about. Their country is in shambles, and they are almost predestined to die from alcoholism. Luckily, they have their music to keep them afloat. They realize that they are destroying themselves with alcohol, but at least that's better than killing yourself with heroin, or so their logic goes. Even though the lyrics are in Russian, you can feel the desolation and pain these guys are feeling.

**New American Mob • All Mob Cons EP • RAFR Records** • Featuring Henry and Gabby from Spent Idols. New American Mob is drunk with rock and roll fury. I can almost see them flailing across the stage as the guitar soars and the vocals are delivered, angst-filled yet sexy. NAM is not short on melodies or hooks and these six songs will definitely reel you in.

**NOFX • The Decline • Fat Wreck** • This may be NOFX's greatest accomplishment yet. Although this new release is only one song, it's better than anything they have ever done. More a musical composition than just another punk tune, the 18-minute anthem is wildly good. The music is melodic as hell, loaded with tempo and style changes – from melodic power punk to slower pop punk to ska riffs – and the lyrics are amazing, insightful and intelligent. At no time during the nearly twenty minute onslaught did I find myself bored with the music because it is constantly melting into variations, blasted through with breakdowns and harmonies. The hooks are absorbing, the pace is captivating and driving while the vocals are as good as always. Few bands could pull something like this off as well as NOFX has done.

**Oblivion • Sweatpants U.S.A. • Suburban Home** • This patriotic trio plays some hard driving guitar rock. Their sound is very straight-ahead and melodic. Now, all they need is the Gap to use one of their rockin' tunes in a commercial. Everyone in sweatpants??? I smell an ad campaign.

**Paris, Texas • So, You Think It's Hot Here? • Polyvinyl Record Company** • Paris, Texas has got all the makings of a great band. The various musical styles blend on *So, You Think It's Hot Here?* to make for a CD that is going in my collection. A mix of indie rock, pop and punk from the varied background of all the members. Check out the first ("Cadillac of High Hair") and eighth tracks ("Lt. Peterson").

**Park Ave. • When Jamie Went to London • Urinine Records** • So the story goes, another band departing before I got to really know them. Curse Jamie for going to London (well, don't really curse her). Anyway, here's the deal, Jamie went to London and a great indie pop band has moved on (to such other projects as Bright Eyes and The Faint). The vocals go between male and female members of the band and are always great. You'll be bobbing your head in no time to the melodic, quirky music and singing along to each pop gem.

**Peggen • My Fluffy Period • Primal Music** • This 5-song EP is the first release for Swedish singer-songwriter Per Erik Gustav Franchell, who goes by the shortened moniker of Peggen. Now living outside of Detroit, Peggen is immersing himself in American culture, enjoying things such as country music, karaoke, and fast-food. The country music influence hasn't quite set in just yet; Peggen performs catchy mellow pop that is reminiscent of the Eels. This is a good preview for his full-length debut which should be released early 2000.

**Phobia • Destroying The Masses • Pessimiser Records** • Hardcore, grindcore, speed metal. It's loud, it's fast and I can't understand a f'ing word this guy is saying. Next...

**Pinback • Pinback • Ace Fu Records** • Pinback is another of prolific singer-songwriter Rob Crow's many musical outlets. Previously known for his work with Heavy Vegetable, Crow now splits his time with several bands. With Pinback, Crow shares the musical load with fellow multi-instrumentalist Armistead Burwell Smith IV. The duo plays a mellow indie-pop that is at times reminiscent of Lou Barlow's work with Folk Implosion. Maybe we could get Crow and Barlow together and they could spit out an album every other week or so.

**Planes Mistaken For Stars • Knife In The Marathon EP**

**• Deep Elm • Hardcore** has never had so much emotion. PMFS has injected straight-ahead, hardcore with heart-felt attitude. Characterized by vocals that are often screamed, sometimes sung, but always full of intensity. PMFS has created an original sound. The music is intricate, feeding off of complex breakdowns and weaving guitar parts.

**Reach The Sky • So Far From Home • Victory Records** • The energy on this album is overflowing. Reach The Sky pack an emotional hardcore punch that you can't duck. The vocals are aggressive but not screamed, while the music has enough melody and tempo changes to make you dizzy. Reach The Sky play tough music that's akin to hardcore bands of the past like Insted and Gorilla Biscuits and more current bands such as Heckle and Lifetime – so grab your board and show me how high you can ollie.

**Saves The Day • Through Being Cool • Equal Vision Records** • With an average age of 20, Saves The Day seem to have their act together. Spunding a bit more mature than on their previous release, *Can't Slow Down*, STD plows ahead with their melodic but powerful sound, exploring heartbreak, youthful romance and teenage insecurities.

**Scott Ritcher • s/t • Initial** • Ritcher plays solo acoustic, and I think he might fare better with a couple of people helping him out. The music isn't bad, but there's something missing – good vocals, for one thing, and a little bit of percussion might make everything a little better.

**Sense Field • Part of the Deal • GrapeOS Records** • After a three year hiatus, Sense Field are back with a new five-song ep, *Part of the Deal*. The ep features two songs which will appear on their new full-length, including the standout track "Open-Heart Surgery." This is an excellent preview for their upcoming album.

**SIANSpheric • Else • Sonic Unyon Recordings** • After 1995's critically acclaimed debut, "Somnium," SIANSpheric has been less than lucky. One of the original guitarists quit the band, and the bassist left the group only four days into a tour as the opening act for Swervedriver. His replacement quit a year later. But they keep going...getting ready to release their second album. In the meantime, you can delight yourself with "else," a collection of remixes of "Planets," live performances of their electric guitar-backed ambient sounds, and an unreleased instrumental track.

**Sixteen Deluxe • The Moonman is Blue EP • Sugar Fix Records** • After the lack of commercial success of their critically acclaimed "Emits Showers of Sparks," which caused Warner Bros. To drop them from their roster, Sixteen Deluxe returns with "The Moonman is Blue EP," an 18-minute jewel of sugar coated pop. The tone is a bit darker, but their affinity for noise remains, as evidenced in the nameless instrumental tracks. It's worth checking out while awaiting the release of their next full-length.

**Softball • Tenku • Asian Man Records** • A little bit of pop-punk from this Japanese trio to keep you rockin' for about a half an hour. The singer sometimes sounds a bit aggressive, but that's all right. No groundbreaking material here, just straight melodic music.

**Sons of Otis • Temple Ball • Man's Ruin Records** • As the large stack of speakers on the CD cover suggest, an immense wall of sound awaits the listener as he ventures into the world of Sons of Otis. Hailing from Canada, they specialize in "psychedelic space blues doom," full of heavy guitars and echo effects. Goes well with Acid King, Electric Wizard, Unida, Men of Porn, Lord Sterling and the Obsessed.

**Spoon • s/t • Saddle Creek** • Spoon is a band with a full, complete acoustic sound. The music truly speaks for itself, as the vocals contained within perfectly complement each other. Definitely worth checking out.

**Sri • Gravity Reminds Me • Blue Boy Records** • Sri has a pretty enough voice, and the music has enough of a poppy feel to make it fun and enough edge to keep you from overdosing on poppy. I still didn't like this cd. Sri's vocals go so poorly w/ the music it's just annoying to listen. No new ground is covered in the lyrics, either. Everything's already been said on the subjects of love and angst, both heavily covered here, and said better.

**Stubborn All-Stars • Nex Music • Stubborn Records** • For their third full length album, the Stubborn All-Stars keep the beat going in a relaxed style with their classic

sound. Guests include King Django, Victor Rice, Agent Jay, Victor Ruggiero, Eddie Ocampos, Lord Sledge and others. There's even a song in French and one in Spanish. This one's for fans of the early ska sound.

**Sugar Spun • Hollywood & Vine • Orange Peel Records** • Well, this is sweet, they got that right. And I don't mean Cartman sweet, I mean dreamy, sugarcoted pop. This is one of the bands Hootie probably started as. It's just harmless, no frills pop. Bland but calming.

**Swank • The Think For Yourself Movement • Fueled by Ramen** • For some reason this feels longer than it is. Or rather, the experience is extended due to the shifts in sonic styles between songs. You have horns, but it lacks ska's upbeat and at times the brass subtracts from the song's power. Sonically they recall Fugazi and The (Young) Pioneers. If you can follow the various textures you may find this to be rewarding.

**Swingin' Utters/Youth Brigade • Split Series Vol II • BYO Records** • With vocals often reminiscent of Social Distortion, the Swingin' Utters deliver six tracks of punk-infused rock. The melodies are striking and attention-grabbing with sweet-ass hooks and a killer pop sense. Following SU are six tracks by punk legends Youth Brigade. They're still delivering their own brand of uptempo punk rock and coming through with damn fine material once again. Loaded with sing-along opportunities, speedy melodies and tempo changes, Youth Brigade captures a part of punk missing from the scene for the most part.

**The 'Tone • Wide Eyes and Nonsense • Broken Rekids** • It's hard to tell that this CD is not a comp as each song has strong stylistic differences from the other. "Pauline" is a 2 Tone dance number, "This is a High" has the energy of The Jam, and "Roadkill" is plain awesome. What connects all of these together? They allude to late 70's/early 80's new wave music. The lyrics of Working Class escapism are the piece de resistance, so get this!

**The Chicken Hawks • Siouxicide City • RAFR Records** • Open wide...here comes your daily dose of extreme rock and roll, nothing more, nothing less. There's a garage feel and a pissed attitude throughout. The female vocals are an added touch to the already grungy, aggressive, garage-ified rock.

**The Derita Sisters Ain't Street • self-titled • To The Left Records** • These goofy four guys play mediocre power pop/punk. The lyrics are somewhat funny, lending the entire album to have a silly feel. This fits in the same bin as kooky punkers like The Vindictives and Boris the Sprinkler (but not quite as accomplished).

**The Drags • 45x3 • eMpty Records** • The Drags have been around for a while and fans will really dig this compilation of more than 20 tracks from various previous releases. CJ, Lorca and Keith have never left the garage and their brand of rockin' guitar music has stayed true. Garage punk, blues, and soul all have a place in the mix of The Drags music – and nothing seems out of place.

**The Faint • Blank-Wave Arcade • Saddle Creek Records** • As soon as I heard the first track from "Blank-Wave Arcade," I immediately thought, Thomas Dolby. While I listened, other names came to mind: Devo, Duran Duran, Depeche Mode. But I also felt the driven edge of powerful rock, simmering under the surface. The Faint combines synth-pop with electronic arcade-sounding noises on top of guitar melodies. It's what in twenty years we'll be looking back on as "retro."

**The Frogs • Bananimals • 4 Alarm Records** • Somebody just learned how to use the panning dial on their audio board. The direction the vocals come from changes with each song, as does the musical style. One thing they all have in common: these songs are all whacked out. Listen of the lyrics of *La da da da, la da da dee, la da da dum dum* and you'll see it's not as playful as it's title. *Love Me or Die*, *Bitch* seems to be sung by someone at a piano bar after too many cocktails. Listen to this CD for its humorous content, instead of for its musical accomplishments.

**The Gadgets • Wish We Never Met • Helicat Records** • Say hello to the four music-makers in The Gadgets arsenal – Hillary (Keyboard/Vocals), Brandon (Guitar/Vocals), Zach (Bass, Vocals) and Adam (Drums). Trying to fight against the shrinking ska hype, The Gadgets break loose with a mix of traditional ska and pop-infused styles. The melodies are so perfect that anti-ska listeners won't even care about the ska-like guitar riffs keeping the tune



# ☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

going. Through the varying approaches to each song on this album, the commitment, solid sound, great beats and killer vocals leave a mark that won't wash-off

**The Hades Kick • at6 • Thick as Thieves Records** • This posthumous release documents the fourteen month career of the Hades Kick. The short-lived Austin band, which featured former members of At the Drive-in and Car Bomb among others, produced some intense and hypnotic rock. Hopefully, their new respective bands will come close to matching this effort.

**The Icarus Line • Red and Black Attack EP • New American Dream** • From the mean streets of LA comes the intense, fractured, spastic rock of The Icarus Line. This four-song EP is just a suicidal tease for future assaults. The quartet is characterized by screamed vocals and chaotic music that jumps from one place to another before you have a chance to contemplate how good it sounded. Despite the rapid fire pace, the music finds time to create melodies here and there. If you want to have your head hurt for all the right reasons, this disc is for you

**The Jazz June • Breakdance Suburbia • Initial Records** • The bio says "Pennsylvania's energetic and melodic The Jazz June". Two out of three ain't bad. They have energy. It shows on every track. Sometimes they lose the melodic in the energetic though. Don't get me wrong, track 6 ("Nothing") and 8 ("Bleach In our Eyes") are a perfect blend, but they lose control and just go balls out occasionally. It's a compilation of other EP's so you can find some goodies you'll like on this

**The Radiation Kings • Early Years • Stubborn Records** • Confident that they'll have a long and prosperous career, The Radiation Kings titled their debut CD *Early Years*. Recorded in Stubborn Records' Version City Studio and produced by ska/reggae master King Django, TRK combine the traditional ska sound with rhythm and blues, rocksteady, and dub-rhythms, accentuated by Lisa White's sensuous vocals.

**The Resonars • Bright and Dark • Get Hip** • Who says '60s guitar pop is dead? Sounding like a hippie version of Material Issue, The Resonars are a psychedelic rock and roll party. Harmonies are constant, wound through every song, topped off with great vocals and a bouncing beat

**The Sorts • Contemporary Music • Slowdime** • The new wave of jazz is a hard thing to weed through. Some of it is so abstract and ambient that I have a hard time finding the "jazz" in it. The Sorts, though, have hit the jazz nail right on the head. This is the six-piece band's second release. Featuring drums, bass, guitar, alto sax, electric piano, congas, various percussion and synth. The Sorts create a sound that is diverse and captivating - taking from jazz and funk roots while incorporating a unique style. There's a solid, but subtle, flow to each track and a bounce that gives it a pure jazz feel.

**The Weakerthans • Follow • Sub City Records** • This album has been out in The Weakerthans' native Canada for about a year and finally it has been licensed in the States. Their songs go from fast to slow, from punk to ballad (and everything in between), from one track to the next. Some tracks reminded me of They Might Be Giants, but not as funny. The lyrics concentrate on alienation, hope and survival in a society they do not seem to fit in.

**Thingy • To the Innocent • Absolutely Kosher Records** • Thingy is one of several projects for singer-songwriter Rob Crow. The prolific Crow, a former member of Heavy Vegetable along with Thingy vocalist Ela Tenuta, churns out enough tunes to occupy his time with five different bands. Thingy performs dark pop tunes that continue to grow on you with repeated listens. Crow and Tenuta's vocal harmonies are one of the album's highlights.

**Thrust SuperSonic • Thrust SuperSonic 3 • Locked Groove Entertainment** • It's hard to believe this Orlando band has only two members. Brandon Horgenshimer plays guitar and bass, and also sings, somewhere between Gavin Rossdale of Bush and Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins. Barry Kerch takes care of the drumming duties. I can't imagine how they pull this off live, but apparently, they do. The production values are superior to the usual "local" band releases. If any band deserves to go big, my money's on Thrust SuperSonic.

**Tom LoMacchio • Five Years Later • Linkworks Records** • Doing his best Morrissey impersonation, but coming off more like an Irish folk singer, Tom LoMacchio soothes the listener with his acoustic guitar work. This time around, Tom adds cellos, synthesizers and percussion to attain a more dynamic sound. His piano playing creates a beautiful soundscape, only to be enjoyed during your most mellow of moods.

**Tommy Guerrero & Gadget / Gresham • Function 8 Promotional CD • Function 8** • Starting things off on this split CD are Tommy Guerrero & Gadget, laying down some slow tempo beats from their second 12" release, sprinkled with piano and strings, creating a lazy, melancholic mood. You get two versions of *Mechanism*, the second one featuring John Gold on vocals. Then there's the two versions of *1 Ton Superman*. Not far behind is Gresham with his hard-to-categorize sound. It reminds you of Folk, Hip Hop and Pop, all at once. One thing is for sure; these two acts complement each other. Play this when cruising at night with the top down.

**Uberhund • Inexpensively Embalmed • Cream Cloud** • I'll be damned if I could find a consistent time signature anywhere in this music, or a note that didn't suddenly bend upward or downward as if you were putting your hand down on a vinyl record just for a second. This record reminds me of Steven Wright's profession: "You know that feeling when you're leaning back in a chair, and you lean a little too far, but at just the last minute you catch yourself? I feel like that all the time." I guess it's some kind of sick genius.

**Various Artists • An Ocean of Doubt, the Emo Diaries, Chapter IV • Deep Elm Records** • This is the latest in Deep Elm's highly acclaimed Emo Diaries series. The twelve songs featured here were chosen from over 500 submissions from bands around the world, and represent some of the best the genre has to offer. Two Swedish bands, The John Doe Band and Keystone Sinatra, really stand out, but virtually every song on this disc is something special. Kudos to the bands and the good folks at Deep Elm.

**Various Artists • Breakdance! Return of the B-Boy • K-Tel Records** • I don't want to reveal my age, but I remember those old K-Tel TV ads from when I was about 7 years old. Even then I knew that K-Tel had no clue as to what music is cool. They haven't changed a bit. Look, I'm no breakdancer, never was, but even I know that the ultimate breakdancing song is "Planet Rock" by Afrika Bambaata. Is it on this CD?

NO. *I Feel for You* by Chaka Khan, however, is track 2. Who the hell ever did a headspin to Gary Numan's *Cars*? *Rapper's Delight*? Nowhere to be found. James Brown? Track 5. Someone please tell K-Tel to STOP! Bargain Bins, here we come!

**Various Artists • Cinema Beer Belly Soundtrack • Hopeless Records** • This is the accompanying CD for the latest in the "Cinema Beer..." video series. Featured on this album are Mustard Plug, Sick of It All, Bad Religion, The Melvins, Diesel Boy, Samiam, Gameface and more - a total of twenty bands doing one

song each. If the bands didn't convince you, let me tell you - this is a great compilation to go hand in hand with a great video

**Various Artists • Culture Shock Punk Rock • Tomato Head Records** • With 27 tracks for only \$5, how can you fight it? Then you find out it includes great bands and you're sold! Featured on this international collection of bands are: Digger (USA), The Wunder Years (USA), Nicotine (Japan), Blindspot (USA), Peacocks (Switzerland), King Apparatus (Canada), MU330 (USA), Alkaline Trio (USA) and many more. Styles include punk, indie rock, emo, pop punk and ska. Don't fight it, buy it!

**Various Artists • Greetings From the Welfare State • BYO Records** • Featuring some killer active UK bands and hard to find and unreleased tracks, this \$5 sampler is hard to pass up. Some of the cool punk rockers included are Goobar Patrol, Four Letter Word, Snuff, Citizen Fish, The 'Tone, Leatherface and more. Twenty bands and twenty tracks for your musical delight.

**Various Artists • Hardcore Knockout II • Genet Records** • Featuring 23 bands doing one track apiece, this hardcore compilation doesn't stick to one style. Although the focus is hardcore, there's a good dose of emo and punk as well. As with any compilation, some stuff is really good while some is forgettable. Overall, though, this is a really good sample of a label with a lot of diversity on board. Standout bands include Leah, Convinced, Reiziger, Concrete Cell, and Timebomb.

**Various Artists • Kickboxing Mix: 60 Minutes of Non-Stop High-Energy Hits • K-Tel Records** • Kickboxing? Whatever, dude. They could have called it Bicycling Mix, or Aerobics Mix, or Walking-in-a-hurry mix for all I care. In their defense, there are two songs that mention some sort of martial art: *Karate Boo-Ga-Loo*, by Jerry-O and *Kung-Fu Fighting* by Carl Douglas. Three of the songs are decent, though: *Bodyrock* by Moby, *Stop & Panic* by Cirrus, and *Mueve La Cadera* by Reel 2 Real and Proyecto Uno. The remix of Snap!'s *The Power* just plain sucked (did this song really need to be remixed?). I kind of enjoyed *La Schmoove* by the Fu-Schnickens (remember them?), but overall I think you should save your money. If you really want this CD, wait until it hits the \$1.99 rack at your local music store sometime this week

**Various Artists • Music to Listen to Music By • Coldfront Records** • This is one of the best sampler records I've heard in years! Tilt, the McRackins, Vindictives, Hagfish, and a full assault of other great bands contribute to this punk rock jewel. Melodic, rich-in-talent songs. You must go acquire this record immediately.

**Various Artists • Punk-Ass Generosity • Onefoot/Devil Doll Records** • Some of the best punk bands around are represented in this 2-CD compilation by Onefoot and Devil Doll Records. 46 to be exact! Crank, Electric Frankenstein, Horace Pinker, Kid With Man Head, Lagwagon, No Fun At All, No Use For A Name, Propagandi, 30 Foot Fall, and The Tie That Binds are only a few of the bands that collaborated on this release. All profits will go to charity, so you will get 125+ minutes of great music and the poor will get paid! I can't think of a better way to help out your fellow human beings.

**Various Artists • Welcome to Santa Barbara... Now Go Home • Fishbowl Records** • Though not officially endorsed by the Santa Barbara chamber of commerce, this Fishbowl Records comp offers some of the best punk and ska available from Santa Barbara and its surrounding communities. There are a variety of bands from Lobster and Drive-Thru Records appearing here as well. Angry Little Man and Ill Repute are two of the standout performers.

**Various Artists • World Jam I • Worldwide Records** • This is one CD out of a 4-disc collectors edition. The goal is to showcase lesser-known artists from around the world. Besides that goal, proceeds from sales are being donated to various charities. The music included on this release is mostly adult contemporary pop and rock. None of the tracks really jumped out at me, but all seemed to be solid tunes from artists I'd never heard before. All the tracks have melody the radio stations would love, styles ranging from Journey to Rod Stewart to Aerosmith to James Taylor to Michael Bolton

**Various Artists • Goth: Music of the Shadows v.1 • K-Tel** • Wrap it up with the requisite Bauhaus T-shirt and this cd could be the perfect Goth starter kit. A compilation of new and old (but mostly old) Goth, it covers 19

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# ☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

years of Brood Rock. Not just for beginners, with such greats as the aforementioned Bauhaus, The Sisters of Mercy, and Alien Sex Fiend, the cd is a celebration of classics sprinkled with newer dark acts Switchblade Symphony and Nosferatu among others. This compilation is a justification of the Goth lifestyle.

**Various Artists • No Borders • Suburban Home •** This is "a collection of Japanese and American Hardcore." The American bands are in top form. 88 Fingers Louie, Snapcase, Indecision, Shutdown, and Sick of It All are some of the US Contingent. Japan is represented by Decay, Aggressive Dogs, Abnormals, and Bent Root doing American Hardcore better justice than other US groups. You know the bands. You know you need this comp.

**Various Artists • The Shortest Distance • Fiddler Records •** This is a compilation of South Florida pop punk, hardcore, emo and ska bands. The stand outs are at the start and end. A New Found Glory have a striking female singer, and Chris Carrabba ends the disc with a lovely emo composition featuring string instruments (more than guitars.) The tracks inbetween are hit or miss. One band I was extremely excited to see here was King 7 and the Soulsonics. Unfortunately their track was previously released on a 3 song CD in 1997. I'd give a listen through out, as South Florida covers a wide area, not unlike this comp.

**Various Artists • When You're Young: The Jam Tribute • 1420 Music •** The Jam fused punk with a mod ethic and in turn influenced the course of rock and roll with their soft/loud crescendos. For some reason I never got into them, so it's hard to judge most of the covers. Blender turns in a faster "Modern World" which rocks out, and Down By Law perform a lovely rendition of "Going Underground." Other bands involved are Skinnerbox, The Adjusters, Serpico, and more for a total of 19 songs.

**Vic Goddard • Long Term Side Effect • Triple XXX Records •** Aging punks can be an interesting bunch. After their youthful anger gives way, what comes next? Vic Goddard and his band Subway Sect were part of the same early punk scene that spawned well-known acts such as the Sex Pistols, the Clash, and the Buzzcocks. Goddard has been releasing solo records for over a decade now, and the sound is far from punk's early days. Goddard has incorporated Motown and soul influences into his sound. Goddard may be getting older, but he's aging quite well.

**Victor Calderone • E=VC squared • Tommy Boy Silver Label •** This is a remix album of great beats and all over solid dance music. It's spent much time on my CD player, in part to his stuttering of certain vocals. Included amidst this mix of great tracks is Madonna's "Sky Fits Heaven" and a dub version of Garbage's "Push It" which has zero relation to the original.

**Vue • Death of a Girl EP • Gold Standard Laboratories •** "Death of a Girl" has five songs bearing a 70's David Bowie influence from this Oakland, CA quartet. The theatrics and themes of goth and old style rock and roll come through in the singer's distinct voice and lyrics. All in all this is well produced, retrofitted and intricate enough to warrant paying close attention to.

**Whippersnapper • The Long Walk • Lobster Records •** Whippersnapper's second album *The Long Walk* is tight. Heavy, guitar driven, and I hesitate to say almost mainstream (much like Blink 182), this Georgia band has been playing together since high school and it shows. They are solid and fairly original with "Equations" (#3) and "Simple Words" (#11) wonderfully promising intros turning into good guitar punk rock.

**Windfall • awaken • Smorgasbord Records •** Get ready to be impressed. This CD EP debut features ex-members from Supertouch and Up Front, and a very intense sounding Jennifer Catucci taking care of the vocals. Guitarists Jon Biviano and Jeff Terranova complement each other, alongside Matt Strongview's drumming and Chris Wallin's bass, to mold a heavy background.

**Zoobombs • Let It Bomb • Emperor Norton •** The initial track opens with a Clash-like sound. British rock with an eclectic feel - coupled with keyboards and dope beats. And that sound continues, funky, Brit rock with a melodic swing. I was bopping up and down to this album from the moment I heard it. It's danceable, singable and filled with hooks, heart and hop.

## Seven inches

**78 RPMs • self-titled • Cheetah's Records •** Unfortunately this doesn't really compare to their recent full-length. The only track I liked was Devillover, which may already be on the full-length. The other two tracks are fast speed numbers with organ accompaniment, with too much energy dispersed in random directions for my tastes.

**Astrid Oto • self-titled • No Idea •** Most reviews will probably rant about Aaron Cometbus being in the band. I'd prefer to rant about the snotty, punk rock female vocals delivered by Cindy. The music and style reminds me of Blatz, an old Lookout! Records band. The music is uptempo, aggressive, angst-filled and full of rough melodies. This is smack-you-in-the-face punk rock. Bonus: Lovely green vinyl.

**Braid • Please Drive Faster • Polyvinyl Record Co. •** This is the last new material you will hear from Braid. After a five-year stint, they've called it quits, leaving us these two amazing songs. Their quick, on-point changes and awesome hooks have put them in a class by themselves. Factor in the great lyrics and you've got a complete, classic band - they will be dearly missed. Go find this white vinyl record and spin it till your needle breaks.

**Kid Brother Collective/Camber • split 7" • Doom Nibbler Records •** KBC are a four-piece from Flint, Michigan. They deliver emo-rock with sincere vocals. The music rolls at a heartfelt pace that evolves into powerful rock, buoyed by sweet piano. Camber puts forth what may be their best song yet. It's a very rockin' tune filled with intricate parts, cool tempo changes and quirks. The vocals aren't the best, though. This release is limited to 1000 copies.

**Lagwagon • A Feedbag of Truckstop Poetry • Fat Wreck •** The title track of this three-song 7" is damn good. It's what you expect from Lagwagon - uptempo, melodic, power punk. The lyrics are great, the music is creative, intricate and changing throughout the song. On the B-Side is one original which is descent and a cover of Jawbreaker's "Want" which is good but not much different from the original which is so good to begin with it probably should be left alone.

**The Gain • Crushstory • 702 Records •** Boy! This is a lovely serving of pop perfection. "And so it goes" and "Jennifer Ann" are both fun and wonderful, and make this 7" worth seeking out. This is more refined than their earlier releases, yet the energy is directed in a song craft this go around. Solid stuff.

**The Hookers • Black Magic Stallion • Devil Doll •** The Hookers play tough-guy southern rock that has heavy guitars and the influence of lots of beer. This release features one original tune and then two covers (The Dogs "Slash Your Face" and Spinal Tap's "Tonight I'm Gonna Rock You Tonight"). The band, while not wow'ing me on this recording, sound like they would be awesome live.

**The Real Diego • Map of the Human Heart • Saige's Records •** If the awesome female vocals aren't enough, then the poppy, quirky indie rock will grab you. The guitar work is equally intricate and creative. This is a great three-song taste from a band bound to impress.

**The Wicked Farleys/The Vehicle Birth • 2 song split • Doom Nibbler Records •** These two songs originate from 1996 and 97. I liked the Vehicle Birth full length, but this track does little for me. The Wicked Farleys kick up a more interesting track with spikes of abrasive guitar to rough up the driving sonic sheen. It's a damn good instrumental that more than justifies owning this.

**The World/Inferno Friendship Society • It's Pumpkin Time • Gem Blandstein •** This is a unique two-song release. The music is an uptempo, swing-filled take on revival music. It's got a great beat and drive and will make you wanna throw your hands in the air and scream "Halleluliah!"

**To Each His Own • Breaking the Mold • Resurrection A.D. •** While the title leads you to believe this is very original, it's not. If anything, To Each His Own borrowed the mold from such bands as Minor Threat and Angry Samoans to create their uptempo brand of skaterock. Although they do a good job, don't expect to be shocked.

## Videos

**The Offspring • Americana • Nitro Records •** As the Offspring rose to acclaim through songs in surf videos, it's only fitting that they return the favor in this video. You have some crazy motorcycle and extremely nuts mountain bike and basejumping action, though the pool skating is kind of weak. Interspersed are live clips and skits of funny and not so funny quality. Fans of The Offspring should note that this is not a music video collection, so if you don't want to see "extreme sports," stick with MTV.

**Various Artists • Cinema Beer Belly • Hopeless Records •** Continuing their series of "Beer" video, Hopeless delivers twenty videos from twenty different bands. Among those included are Mustard Plug, The Weakernaths, Superchunk, Bad Religion, Man or Astroman, Diesel Boy, Samiam, Alkaline Trio, Gameface, The Queers and many more. The quality is awesome and the videos, for the most part, are very cool and creative. Bonus: the first video is in 3-D and the glasses come with it.

## Label Addresses

(write these guys, tell 'em IMPACT sent ya)

1420 Music, PO Box 35423, Richmond VA 23235  
4 Alarm Records, 660 W. Lake Street, Chicago, IL 60661  
702 Records, PO Box 204 Reno NV 89504  
Absolutely Kosher, 417 Frederick St., SF, CA 94117  
Ace Fu Records, PO Box 3388, Hoboken, NJ 07030  
Asian Man, PO Box 35585, Monte Sereno, CA 95030-5585  
Blue Boy Records, 739 Manor St., Lancaster, PA 17603  
Broken Rekids, POB 460402, San Fran, CA 94146  
BYO Records, PO Box 67A64 Los Angeles, CA 90067  
Cheetah's Records, PO Box 4442, Berkeley, CA 94704  
Coldfront Records, PO Box 8345, Berkeley, CA 94707  
Crank Automotive, PO Box 50071, Arlington, VA 22205  
Crank!, 1223 Wilshire Blvd. #823, Santa Monica, CA 90403  
Cream Cloud, 30 Crestline #1, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Crustacean Records, PO Box 370156, Milwaukee, WI 53237  
Deep Elm Records, PO Box 1965, New York, NY 10156  
Devil in the Woods, PO Box 6217, Albany, CA 94706  
Doghouse Records, PO Box 8946, Toledo, OH 43623  
Doom Nibbler, PMB 186, 838 E High St. Lexington KY 40502  
Eanwig Studios, PO Box 34705, Birkenhead, Auckland, NZ  
Emperor Norton, 102 Robinson St., Los Angeles, CA 90026  
Empty Records, PO Box 12034, Seattle, WA 98102  
Equal Vision Records, PO Box 14, Hudson, NY 12534  
Eternity, 11684 Ventura Blvd., #341, Studio City, CA 91604  
Fat Wreck Chords, PO Box 193690, SF, CA 94119-3690  
Fearless, 13772 Goldenwest St., #545, Westminster, CA 92683  
Fiddler Records, PO Box 330667, Miami FL 33233  
Fishbowl, 4869 S. Bradley, #18B #223, Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Free Union Records, PO Box 5781, Charlottesville, VA 22905  
Frenetic Records, POB 64034, San Francisco CA 94164  
Fueled By Ramen, PO Box 12563, Gainesville, FL 32604  
Function 8, PO Box 411195, San Francisco, CA 94141-1195  
Genet Records, PO Box 447, 9000 Gent 1, Belgium  
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Gold Standard Labs, PO Box 11794, Berkeley CA 94712-2794  
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K-Tel, 2605 Fernbrook Lane North, Minneapolis, MN 55447-4736  
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Locked Groove, PO Box 948301, Mailtland, FL 32794-0532  
Lookout! Records, PO Box 11374, Berkeley, CA 94712-2374  
Man's Ruin Recs, 610 22nd Street #302, San Francisco, CA 94107  
Napalm Ape, PO Box 2510, Port Charlotte, FL 33949  
New American Dream, PO Box 265, Balboa Island, CA 92662  
New Red Archives PO Box 210501, San Francisco, CA 94121  
Nitro, 7071 Warner Ave. F-736, Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
No Idea Records PO Box 14636 Gainesville, FL 32604  
Now or Never Records, 61 Riordan Place, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702  
Onefoot/Devil Doll Recs, PO Box 30727, Long Beach, CA 90853  
Orange Peel Records, PO Box 15207, Fremont, CA 94539  
Outpost/Bar None, PO Box 1704, Hoboken, NJ 07030  
Panic Button, PO Box 148010, Chicago, IL 60614-8010  
Pessimiser Records, PO Box 1070, Hermosa Beach, CA 90524  
Polyvinyl Records, PO Box 1885, Danville, IL 61834  
Primal Music, 648 Broadway Ste. 303, New York, NY 10012  
Punge Records, 6570 Richmond Rd., Oakwood, OH 44146  
Pussyfoot, 43/44 Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB  
Radical Records, 77 Blecker St. #C2-2, New York, NY 10012  
RAFR, 11054 Ventura Blvd., Suite 205w, Studio City, CA 91604  
Resin Records, PO Box 5601, Washington, DC 20016-1201  
Resurrection A.D., PO Box 763, Red Bank, NJ 07701  
Revelation, PO Box 5232, Huntington Beach, CA 92615-5232  
Roadrunner Records, 536 Broadway, New York, NY 10012  
Saddle Creek, PO Box 8554, Omaha, NE 68108-0554  
Satellite Recs, 920 E Colorado Blvd., #151, Pasadena, CA 91106  
Slowdime, PO Box 414, Arlington, VA 22210  
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Suburban Home, PO Box 40757, Denver, CO 80204  
Sugar Fix, PO Box 46361 Hollywood, CA 90046-0361  
The Self-Start Foundation, PO Box 1776, Horsham, PA 19044  
Thick as Thieves Records, PO Box 7774, Austin, TX 78713  
Tommy Boy, 902 Broadway, 13th Floor, NY, NY 10010  
To The Left Records, PO Box 4829, Boulder, CO 80306  
Tomato Head, PO Box 61298, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-1298  
Tree Records, PO Box 578582, Chicago, IL 60657  
Triple XXX Records, PO Box 862529, Los Angeles, CA 90086  
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# The Easiest Road...

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

# WEATH

"For you are prisoners of war, in an enemy's country of a war, too, that is unrivalled for its injustice, cruelty, meanness."

Frederick Douglass  
(1850)

It is increasingly easy to stereotype the men and women on Death row. The State does it every day, as does the press. Those banished to the most exclusive club in America are deemed worthy of damnation, and in truth, all are presumed guilty, for did not a jury say so?

Then one meets Fred Thomas, a 53-year-old great-grandfather, who was projected to a jury as homeless, heart-

less and in the words of the DA, "a predator."

In a brief, week-long trial that went poorly defended, a jury convicted Fred of 1st degree murder; and a day later, on February 28, 1995, sent Fred to Death Row in Pennsylvania. Why should one care about a "homeless, heartless, predator?" Clearly the jury didn't.

What the jury never learned was that an eyewitness, located the day after the killing of a FedEx driver in the so-called "Bad lands" of North Philly, gave a statement to the cops that she witnessed the shooting, named two of the assailants, and described the third, none of which remotely resembled Thomas. Indeed, her statement was corroborated by another witness, who saw the three men running away!

I know; I know; the question arises, well how did the prosecutor convict this man? Well, in their first attempt, they didn't, for the jury refused to convict, and a hung jury was declared.

In the 2nd trial, the State provided two witnesses, both crack addicts, who claimed they saw Fred fleeing the scene, but even they could not go as far as saying they saw him shoot anyone, or even armed. According to the woman who did see the shooting, however, one of the assailants was related to one of the two witnesses who now placed Fred at the scene. These "witnesses," both of whom had extensive criminal histories, were not asked about their drug-related activities, despite repeated requests of counsel to do so. A homeless man, desperate for a dollar to survive, might rob and kill a truck driver; as would a drug addict. But Fred wasn't a homeless man, nor an addict, but a hard-working man, who worked a variety of jobs to support his growing family. When a group of his former and present employers appeared in court on his behalf, they were told by his counsel that they weren't necessary. They left. The jury never heard from the main witness because she was threatened with the taking of her children. At an extraordinary bench warrant hearing to compel the witness's presence, the State revealed an extraordinary distaste for a person who gave a statement in a murder proceeding:

**ADA:** Well as I stated earlier, anything that the Commonwealth could do to assist, of course, we will. Back in October I brought to the Court's attention that, and we shared the information with defense counsel: One, that this person was on welfare under an assumed name.

**Defense:** Yes, I have that.

**ADA:** Thus, there is a real basis for a charge of welfare fraud. We actively looked for her during the various tours that my officers were working.... [Pre-trial Hearing, Com. V. Thomas 2/13/95]

Again, this is a witness, not a suspect! Contrary to popular opinion, under existing rules, the processing of a death sentence is the easiest in the system. Oh yeah, the cops involved? They are almost all doing time for the corruption scandal around the 39th police district.

Guess who "found" the witnesses? Guess who prepped them? And guess who advised others not to show up?

The infamous 39th District, which has a certain expertise in using drug addicts and whores when they need "witnesses," are at the root of why Fred Thomas is on death row, and not at home with his loving grandchildren.

He is innocent of murder, and as of this writing, has a date to die for November 23rd, 1999. Now, in truth, he may survive past this death warrant, his second. But the question arises, will he survive Death Row?

A 53-year old, he recently was diagnosed as diabetic, and is now insulin-dependant. He has one fervent hope: "I hope my health don't give out, so I can live long enough to prove my innocence."

*Editor's Note:* Since the writing of this article, Fred Thomas received a stay of execution. We were unable to obtain any further information with regards to his situation. ■

## Make an IMPACT

**Death Penalty Info Center:** <http://www.essential.org/dpic/>

**Campaign To End The Death Penalty:**

<http://www.nodeathpenalty.org/>

**National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty:**

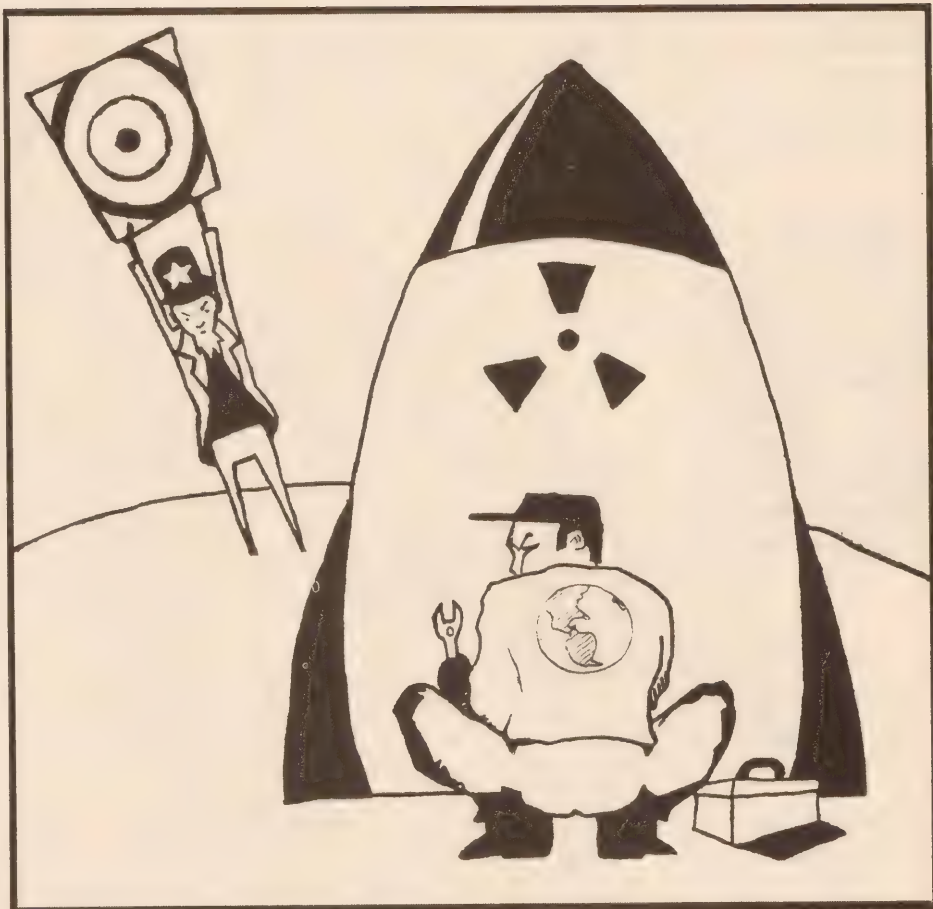
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**Free Mumia Abu-Jamal:** <http://www.mumia.org/>



# Senate To World: "Screw You!"

by Chris Netram  
art by Eachean Edmundson



**THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT—WE ARE THE GLOBAL LEADERS.** A recent piece on one of the television "newsmagazines" summed it up: we have the most powerful military, the strongest economy, the most inventive populace, and the greatest opportunities in the world. In short, everyone wants to be here. So what are we doing to foster continued prosperity?

No one credible can tell the future. But by looking at our current decisions one can extrapolate the effects of specific actions on our current standing as the king of the world. With its across-the-board influence, the federal government's actions serve as the best bellwether of things to come.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty provides a glimpse of where we're at. The CTBT, a 1996 UN-brokered pact, calls for a stoppage of underground nuclear testing. Currently, new bomb designs cannot be efficiently tested without underground testing; therefore, the treaty effectively ends the development of nuclear weapons. Signed by 154 nations, the treaty needs to be ratified by all 44 current nuclear powers in order to be put into effect.

The details of the treaty's fate in the US are stark: Jesse Helms (R-NC), the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman had tabled the treaty for over two years; Helms and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) unexpectedly reintroduced the treaty for a quick vote; when it seemed that treaty would be defeated, Democrats appealed to Lott for a motion to table the treaty or allow debate on its merits and flaws; the request was denied by Lott and in

partisan voting (51 to 48), Republicans rejected the treaty.

Each party provides its own spin as to why the internationally vital and domestically popular treaty was defeated. Democrats say the treaty was shot down because the timing was not right to justify a quick vote. Here, our Senators admit that rallying votes on party lines is how work gets done in the upper house. Have we really come to this? Our elected officials determining the fate of nuclear arms control treaties according to loyalties to parties that address primarily domestic issues in their campaigns?

Republicans justified their partisanship with the contention that the treaty was inherently flawed due to the current state of our technology, which would not allow us to monitor every possible test in the world. This is undoubtedly a valid concern, but this reasoning is nonsensical in the United States. Are we not the same country that went to the moon, invented the computer, and developed space-based weapons? In the country that fostered the human genome project, NASA, Los Alamos, MIT, and Stanford lack of technology is a poor excuse, one that reveals the rejection of the treaty as little more than a thinly-veiled swipe at the President. Regardless of the quality of their reasoning, the fact remains that the rest of the world has to deal with a decision that seems to have come about as a result of petty bickering.

At it's worst, the treaty would have frozen the development of a new generation of nuclear arms and may have prompted a standoff with a violating country testing its first bomb. As an arms-testing



agreement, the CTBT was not designed to limit overwhelming American capabilities, which are key to America's role as a global peacekeeper, but rather to prevent the world from being threatened by a rouge group armed with the most destructive weapon ever created. Even without developing new nuclear devices, we possess the ability to steamroll any country or individual that gets on our bad side (read: Iraq and Milosevic).

At its best, the treaty would have allowed countries without a powerful military to divert resources and energy to issues more positive (education, economic development, political stability) than the development and testing of a nuclear arsenal. The logic here is simple—if the US, with the world's most technologically advanced and best-trained military supports a nuclear arms treaty, then the rest of the world need not put nuclear arms development at the top of their agendas. Some would say that this amounts to meddling in affairs outside our sphere of concern; however, CTBT's influence is more economic than military.

With an aging population and an insatiable desire for new products and services, America is a global economy whore. Without Indian engineers, Japanese researchers, Brazilian coffee exporters, and European car manufacturers, our standard of living would be barely tolerable. While we are globally dependent for our standard of living, the Senate's action casts America as isolationist. The situation is comparable to Bill Gates suddenly pulling all \$5 billion out of his endowment to support education and diversity and putting it back into Microsoft in order to push his personal wealth even higher. By not ratifying the treaty, we have forced all world governments to make a hard decision that directly impacts US citizens. Should their resources be used to develop nuclear weapons or to develop the things that make them money, like American consumer goods?

So imagine that you're India—your people are impoverished, literacy is well-below the level of any industrialized nation, you can hardly support yourself economically—and you hear the US has canceled a UN-backed nuclear treaty.

The message that the rejection of the treaty sends is: the US is so big and bad that it doesn't need to care about the rest of the world. Suddenly, those computer engineers you've been sending to America seem like a valuable asset to your defense industry, since you need to make major technology gains in order to protect yourself from potentially nuclear-armed enemies. Simultaneously, the US with its low unemployment rate sinks into a recession because its manufacturers cannot fill orders or develop new technologies fast enough due to a simple lack of bodies. A nightmare scenario ensues of global economic chaos, war, and the Messiah walking the earth.

To Senate Hawks, the fate of developing countries is of little concern. These Hawks are in the same camp as House legislators

whose protectionist concerns focused on sending "our boys" to fight "someone else's" war instead of human rights or ethnic cleansing when Kosovo happened. And when Afghanistan's Taliban, Iraq's Hussein, or Yugoslavia's Milosevic tests a nuclear weapon and threatens to destroy an American city, these are the same legislators who will be painting themselves as prophetic defenders of US nuclear capabilities rather than as reactionary militants who missed the best opportunity to prevent the situation from occurring.

Without this treaty, we have no real ability to pressure rogue states and countries with a vendetta against America who seek to develop nuclear arms. Our nuclear arsenal can't bring the dead back to life. It is a deterrent to countries with which we have positive relations, relations which are strengthened by military and economic cooperation. The fear of sanctions from all members of the industrialized world, which is what the treaty would have provided, is the

ONLY thing that can effectively deter such a development.

Yes, the world is worried by the rejection of this treaty. So why aren't US voters?

Well, we do have the comfort of possessing the world's most advanced nuclear arsenal. In the long run though, that means very little. England had the world's most advanced navy and settled into a pattern of not caring about anything other than its own interests. It was at that point their influence waned. Do we really want to be another Britain—sitting back and trying to compete in a global economy that we created, instead of leading it?

With the threat of doom hanging over us, we remain complacent, letting partisan politics threaten our lives and livelihoods. We sit back, watch the news, read the papers and accept partisan politics as a matter of principle, as the way things work, a system that cannot be changed. But that is just not true. The time has come for us to make a personal choice. We can either let our voices be heard now by telling our legislators that we want ideas, debate, and action—not party-led voting—or make our voices heard in the future while whining about our status as a second-rate nation. ■

## Make an IMPACT

**U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency:**  
[http://www.acda.gov/ctbtpage/ctb\\_page.htm](http://www.acda.gov/ctbtpage/ctb_page.htm)

**Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Research and Engineering Program:** <http://www.ctbt.rnd.doe.gov/ctbt>

**ISN-International Relations and Security Network:**  
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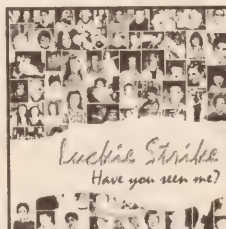
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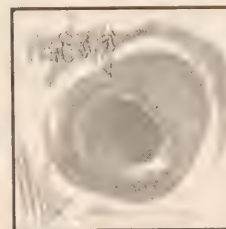
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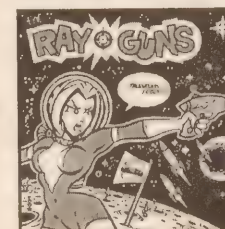
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# Make An IMPACT on A.I.D.S

By  
Jeffrey-  
John  
Nunziata

Please email any questions to Jeff  
at: sk8board@worldnet.att.net

*If we choose your question we will send  
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**Q:** "I have read your AIDS articles for some time now, always afraid to write until now. Okay, I have been living with HIV, NOT AIDS, for a couple of years and I am only 19 years old. I want to start off by saying that I am a straight guy who got this from using drugs and probably from sharing needles shooting up H. See, not all of us living with this are gay. I recently started to date a girl and I really like her a lot. We have been somewhat intimate and stuff but I am sort of nervous about having any type of sex. What's the risk bro, and what should I do? I really care about her and I haven't told her about me being infected and all, and I don't know, but some people say you have to by law. Please don't give me the third degree on this; I just need some advice and a friend. I still haven't seen a doctor about all this. I'm too scared to talk to anyone I know about this. Thanks to you guys at Impact Press for giving a fuck about people like me. I had nowhere else to turn. Please answer me!"

"A normal dood living in the mess I made"

**A:** Hey "dood," I promise not to give you the third degree, okay, but I'm gonna be truthful. The most important thing you can do at this point is to see a physician for a complete medical evaluation. They can do lots of tests to make sure you are doing ok and monitor how much virus you have in your body through a test called a viral load that will let them know if you may need medicine. Next, consider seeing an HIV Case Manager. This is a person who will help you work the system and can help you to get specific services and/or financial assistance and other useful stuff. You can find out where your closest HIV Case Manager is by calling your local Department of Health. If that doesn't work, call me at (813) 871-7561 and I'll help you get that information.

Now that we dealt with you taking care of you, it's time to move on to your girlfriend. It is very difficult to talk about HIV with your sex partner; that's normal and to be expected. Some of the most common reasons given for not telling a sex partner are because you may be afraid she will leave you or that you have no idea how she'll react and that the intimacy level of your relationship may change. You need to understand though that for any relationship to work you need to be honest. Think how you'd feel if you found yourself in a relationship and then someone dropped something like this on you. From my experience in this field, the longer you wait to tell her, the harder it will become to tell her. Honesty always is the best policy, regardless of our fears, guy.

In regards to the risk with different types of sex, it is important that you understand that depends on a lot of different factors. First, depending on the amount of

virus you have inside of yourself, you may be more capable of transmitting the virus to others. Then there is the issue of what type of sex you are having and if it is protected. I'm not one of those guys that are gonna tell you that there is more risk in one thing than another. You need to know that if there is ANY

risk of transmission you need to protect your partner and yourself. Yeah, you need to protect yourself as well. You could become infected with secondary infections that could stress out your immune system and cause the HIV to spread more quickly.

In regards to protecting yourself sexually, you have several options. You can choose to abstain, which you have implied is not the option for you. The next option is that you can have protected vaginal, oral and/or anal sex with a condom. If you plan on vaginal oral or oral anal contact, you can make that safer by using some household plastic wrap over the vagina or anus.

There's a legal side to your question as well. I'm not sure what state you live in, but in most states it is illegal for an HIV infected person to have sex with someone without telling them of your status.

There are many people who are in discordant couples, where one is infected and the other one is not. If both parties are informed and protect themselves they can make the best of it and have a great time together. It's true. Good luck.... JEFF-JOHN

**If you want to mail letters to an address...**

Jeffrey-John Nunziata, FL Dept. of Health  
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Assistant HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator &  
Statewide Trainer  
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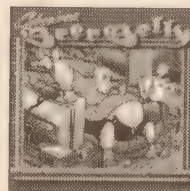
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By Chip McConnell



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**1907 AD** - Wilbur Wright finally gets his luggage back from Tucson four years after the first flight.

**1961 AD** - A helicopter is used in Los Angeles for the first time to report traffic. Seventeen people are injured in auto accidents while watching the helicopter.

**1989 AD** - The "Decade of Decadence" is coming to a close. Self-indulgence, once all the rage, is falling by the wayside in favor of self-reflection. And monkeys will fly out of my butt.

**One Year Ago Today:** Many books are written by experts concerning the Y2K scare. Writers make millions of dollars. OK, if the Y2K bug really happens, how are they going to get to all their money? My suggestion, turn it into SPAM and Beanie Babies!

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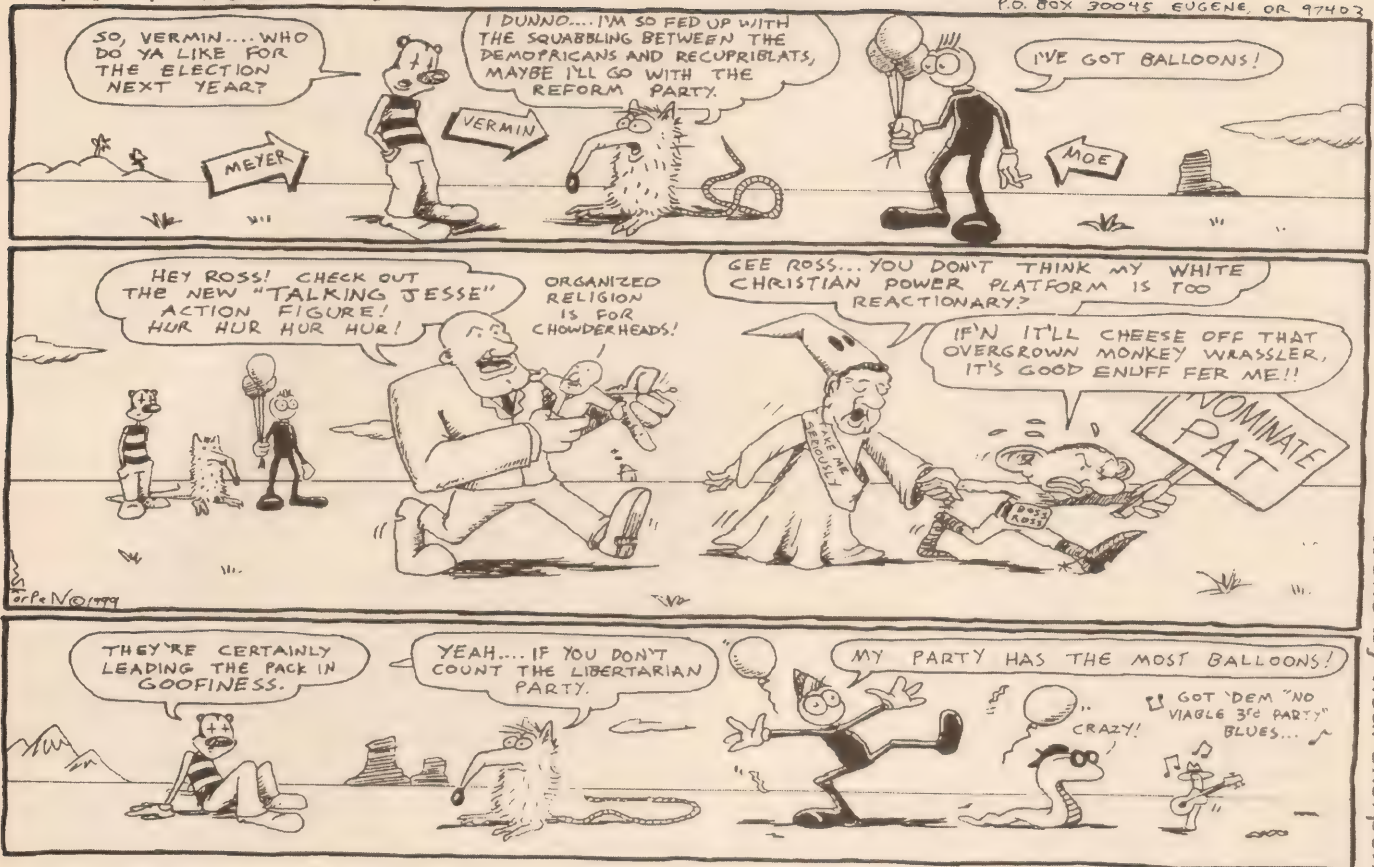
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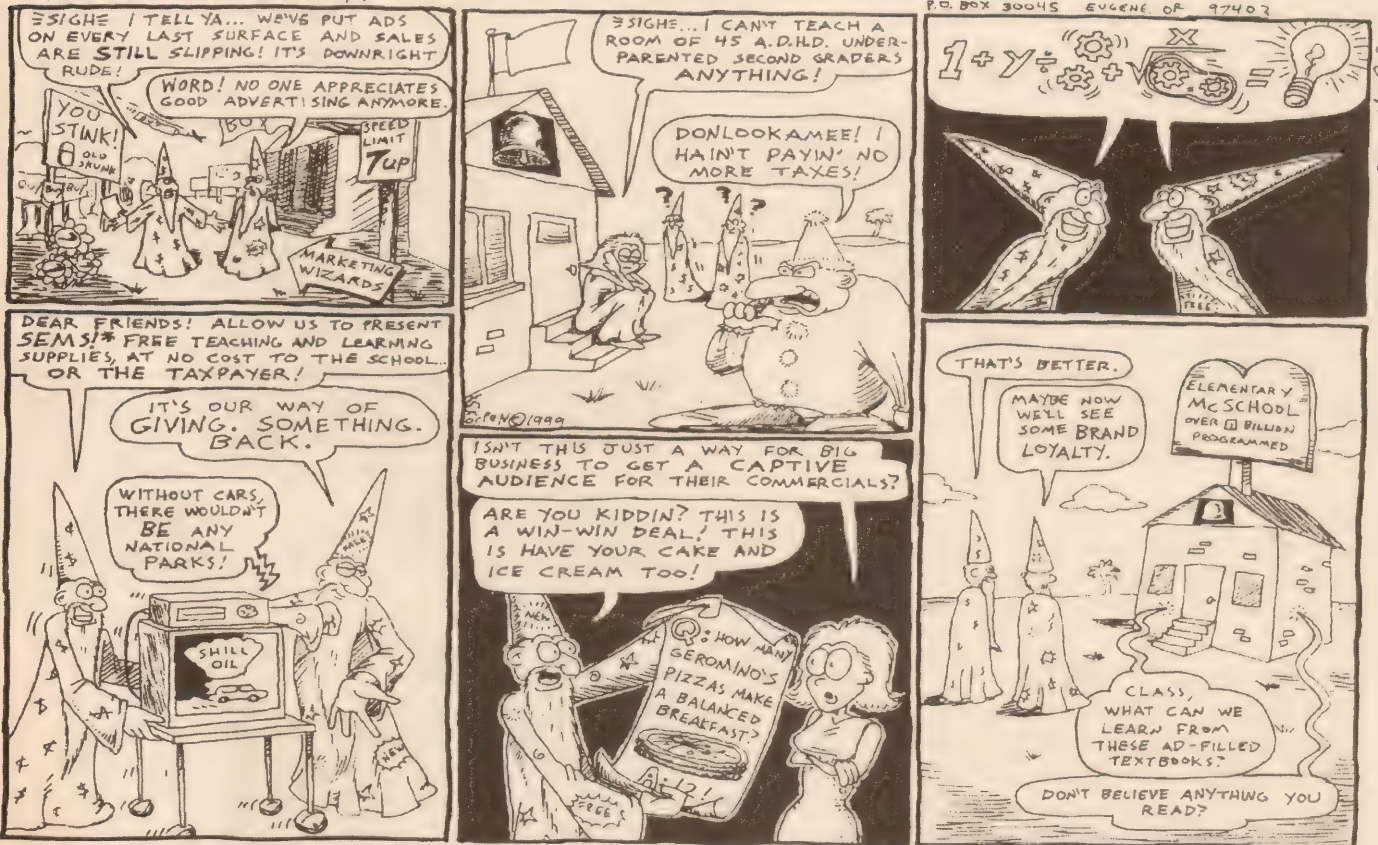
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# SMART RACISM

By Zeev Gorin • Edited by K. Shreeram

*"I never tried to meet Mertens. I felt a complex reluctance, of which aversion was only one component. Years ago I wrote him a letter; I told him that if Hitler had risen to power, devastated Europe and brought Germany to ruin, it was because many good German citizens behaved the way he did, trying not to see and keeping silent about what they did see. Mertens never answered me, and he died a few years later." — Primo Levi*

WHEN BENJAMIN SMITH SHOT UP THE MIDWEST IN JULY, wounding nine and killing two people — a Black and a Korean — he did much more than demonstrate that racism is alive and well in the United States.

Smith's bullets also served to punch huge holes in the old adage that racism stems from ignorance and can therefore be eliminated through education.

Smith attended several quality universities in the Midwest including the University of Illinois and the University of Indiana at Bloomington. His mentor and friend, "Pontifex Maximus" Matt Hale, the leader of the white supremacist World Church of the Creator, earned Bachelors degrees in political Science and Music from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and a law degree from Southern Illinois University. In fact, some of the most creative and vicious perpetrators and practitioners of racism have been professors and recipients of Ph.D. degrees from top universities in the Western World.

Universities, not unlike other institutions, have been creating, reproducing and reflecting the racism of broader society. While universities have the means and should play a leading role in battling racist ideologies, the evidence seems to suggest that this has not been the case. A brief examination of some aspects of the use of Native American imagery in sports at Bradley University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sheds some light on this issue. As a faculty member at Bradley University, I have discussed with a variety of individuals on campus — students, faculty and top administrators — the conflict over the use of Indian imagery in sports.

What I have found most striking is the inability or unwillingness of a vast majority of individuals to understand and accept the position that the use of Native American imagery in the area of sports is racist. It has been painful to watch accomplished Ph.D.s in various disciplines suddenly lose their ability to reason when it comes to the issue of mascots and nicknames.

This is well illustrated in the documentary "In Whose Honor," (<http://www.inwhosehonor.com/>) in which members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois spew irrational and cruel rhetoric in support of their racist mascot. Here is an example: Supporters of the use of Indian mascots claim that the widespread use of Native American imagery in highly aggressive, competitive sports is rooted

in "respect and admiration" for Native Americans. Given the genocide inflicted by the European colonizers and later by the United States, how can a thinking person claim that the United States has respected Indians? Before Columbus, the indigenous people in what is now the United States and Canada numbered, conservatively, about 15 million. By the beginning of the 20th century the colonizers and their descendants had wiped out all but a quarter of a million Native Americans. If this were indicative of respect, would these educators also suggest that the Germans respected the Jews?

Even most of those who appear to understand the racist nature of the abuse of Native American symbols have not spoken out. They either haven't felt strongly enough or have chosen to conform. The limited progress that took place at Bradley in the struggle to eliminate its racist anti-Indian symbols (the University changed its offensive logo and mascot; however, it refused to eliminate the nickname "Bradley Braves") occurred in the face of general hostility and opposition. These hard-fought victories are primarily the result of the commitment, creativity and militancy of Native American activists.

The evidence accumulated during the struggle over the nicknames and mascots at universities in the heart of Illinois (as well as at most other universities) suggests that the faculty and administrators, with a handful of exceptions, are either intellectually unequipped or simply unwilling to take a stand against racism.

Why has it been so difficult for Native Americans to make their point regarding the nicknames, logos and mascots? Why is it that institutions of higher learning have put up such stubborn resistance to a modest, minimal request? How can we explain the fact that the majority of our Illinois representatives voted to enshrine legally the racist Chief Illiniwek mascot?

I believe that in order to understand this mule-like opposition to eliminating the racist symbols one must see racism as a phenomenon vested in the domain of power and privilege rather than, as is the common wisdom, seeing it as something irrational and harmful to all. Acknowledging that the nicknames and mascots are racist could open up a Pandora's box. Perhaps it could lead to the admission of genocide committed against the Native Americans and to the acknowledgment that the wealth and power of this country, to a large extent, derive from massive ethnic cleansing and plunder of land and wealth of hundreds of indigenous nations. Such an understanding and admission would be most painful. Moreover it could spark a call for reparations and true recognition of the sovereignty of the Indian nations. It would most likely point toward the need for radical restructuring of the relationships between the Indian nations and broader society, a restructuring entailing a loss of power and privilege for the dominant white majority.

The resistance of the majority group, including its erudite professors, is not due to lack of intelligence or an atavistic legacy of a past no longer relevant. On the subconscious level there is the foggy awareness of a threat to their self-interest; thus their reluctance to give up power and privilege. Racism, in this sense, is rational, however morally reprehensible it might be.

The racist practices of Bradley and U. of I. are merely micro fea-



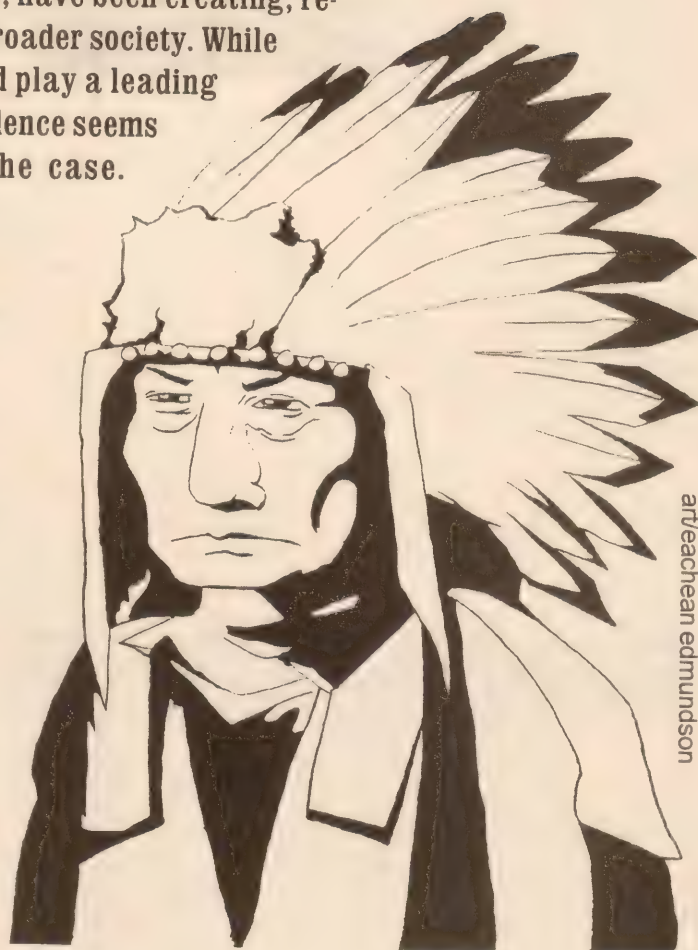
**Universities, not unlike other institutions, have been creating, reproducing and reflecting the racism of broader society. While universities have the means and should play a leading role in battling racist ideologies, the evidence seems to suggest that this has not been the case.**

tures of racism on the global scale that emerged about 500 years ago with the modern colonial enterprise. According to a UN report released July 12, "The top 20 percent of the world's population earned 74 times as much as the bottom 20 percent. In 1960 it was 30 times as much." Do I need to point out that the top 20 percent (roughly 1.2 billion people) of the world's population referred to above is overwhelmingly composed of Europeans or people of European descent, while the bottom quintile is composed of people of color? As long as this obscene color gap in distribution of privilege exists and grows, the ideology of racism is likely to persist since there is no better device to justify and rationalize this gap. It is not likely that such an understanding of racism will become part of the dominant paradigm in the universities of the rich West. The privileged, as a group, are not likely to develop and propagate ideas inimical to their interests, nor are they likely to seriously fight ideas that justify their power and privilege.

Given this dynamic of racism and the attendant record of most universities, the educational experiences of the Smiths and Hales are unlikely to steer them away from ideologies of white-superiority.

In this context, a sliver of my personal experiences might be relevant. Notwithstanding my long educational experience in two distinguished institutions of higher learning (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Columbia University in New York), I remained as ignorant and deceived about Native Americans as I was at the age of 10. I harbored the common stereotypes of Indians derived from the European classic children's stories about Native Americans — the savage warrior and the noble savage. It was only in the early 1980s that I had the good fortune to attend a presentation by Vernon Bellecourt, an indefatigable leader of A.I.M. I remember distinctly how shaken up and appalled I was when Vernon started his presentation, "When the colonial pirate Columbus was washed up on the shores of the Americas..." It was an Indian activist who expanded my horizons and urged me to consider the possibility that Columbus did not initiate an era of exploration, but rather one of genocide and exploitation. I did not learn of the existence of such a perspective from my professors at the Hebrew University, nor at Columbia.

I have taught Sociology for years at Bradley; I have been to the Dickson Mounds museum (notorious for its dug out Indian cemetery) a number of times. The racist mascots and logos were all around me. My Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University did not lead me even to consider the possibility that there might be something wrong with these practices. I owe my education in this area to another activist, Michael Haney, who, with a group of committed Native Americans, appeared for the first time in this area in 1991, and then kept coming again and again, during hot summers and freezing winters, in beaten up cars, from far away, to protest and organize.



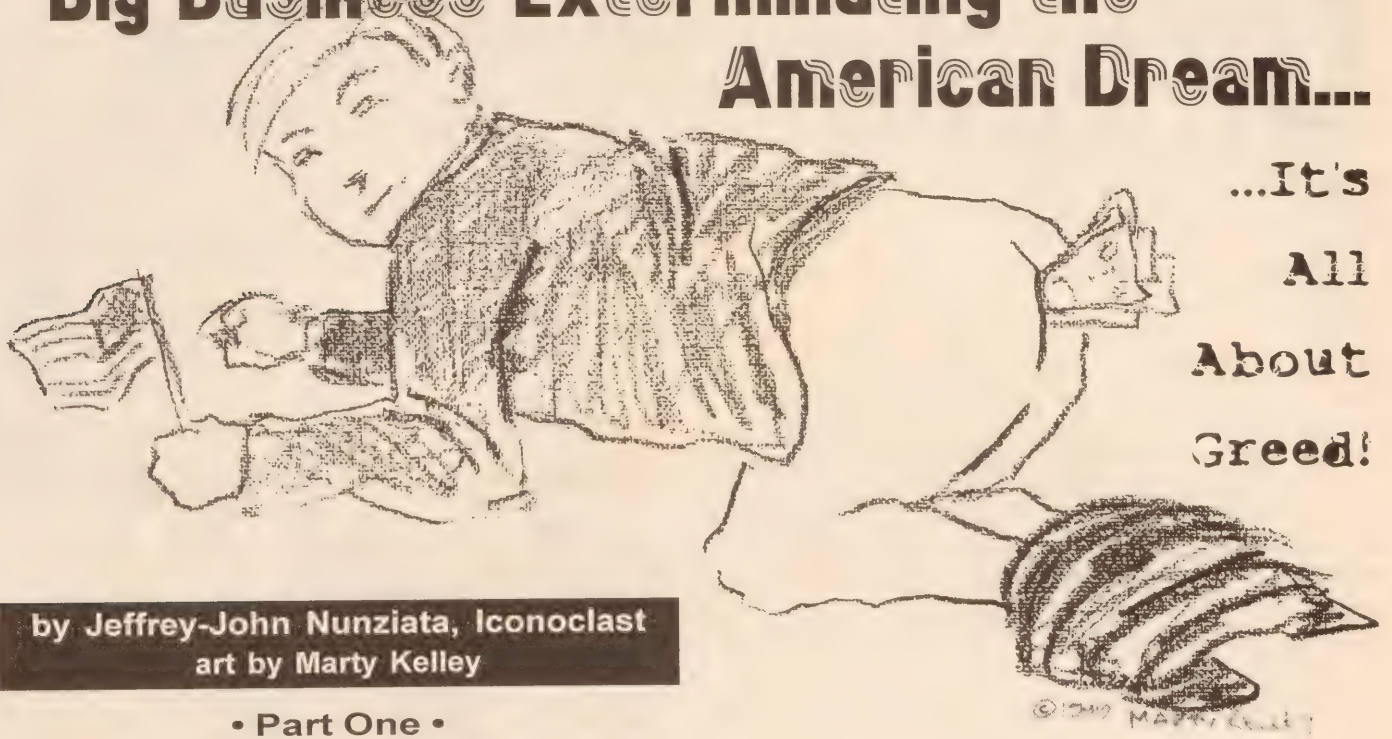
To us old-timers in the metropolitan Peoria area, Matt Hale was a familiar figure well before the shooting spree of his disciple. A prolific writer of letters to the editor of the mainstream city newspaper, *The Journal Star*, and the student newspaper, *The Bradley Scout*, Matt Hale has been the most outspoken, energetic, and innovative self-acknowledged local racist. During his stormy career at Bradley University, Hale distinguished himself by plastering billboards and passing out hate literature; hosting a local neo-Nazi/white supremacy TV show; attracting to the Peoria area (and, in fact, onto the Bradley campus) the KKK and other neo-Nazi organizations, and by his unceasing efforts to create white supremacist organizations (e.g., the NAAWP — National Association for the Advancement of White People) on campus and in the broader community. By now, our native son has "made it". He has become a national celebrity.

Having closely followed his exploits at Bradley for four years, there is no doubt in my mind that we at the university significantly enhanced Hale's analytical and writing skills, and thus provided him with upgraded tools that he has used rather effectively in his war against Jews and people of color. That this was indeed the case is evident in the numerous "Letters to the Editor" Hale published in the *Bradley Scout*, which served for years as a stage, almost on a weekly basis, for his poisonous "analyses". The improvement, over time, in the quality of his writing and sophistication in the

*(RACISM, continued on page 46)*



# Big Business Exterminating the American Dream...



by Jeffrey-John Nunziata, Iconoclast  
art by Marty Kelley

## • Part One •

As Americans we live in this almost unconscious denial that government, or maybe more accurately "our" government, represents "our" interests. We cast our votes and elect people to represent us in local, state and federal elections. I mean, let's be real for a moment... there are places on this planet where you don't even have the right to vote. So, America ain't that bad, right? **GUESS AGAIN!**

More and more of us are becoming disillusioned with the American dream and do not view our government the same way our parents and grandparents did. We are beginning to open our eyes and come to the conclusion that our government is no longer by the people and for the people. Government has stopped serving the interests of those who elected them and has sided with big businesses that owe an allegiance in many cases to no nation and no one but themselves and their stockholders.

Okay, so maybe you're some sort of optimist who thinks, "Well gee-whiz. Don't 'we the people' own the stock from these companies?" If you were to think that, you'd be wrong. The filthy rich top 10% control about 85% of that stock, leaving you and me, the bottom 90% of the working class with only 15% of all the stock out there.

The gap between the absurd rich and the common poor continues to widen destroying any chance for the survival of the middle class. Look around you. In a time when our economy has never been stronger there is still a continued and ever-growing gap between the wealthiest citizens of this nation and the poorest. So now ask yourself, "How can this be?" But don't take my word for it. The Secretary of Labor even stated that "we have the most unequal distribution of income of any industrialized nation in the world" and that "we can't be a prosperous and stable society with a huge gap

between the very rich and everybody else."

Now, where do you think all these new poor come from, huh? They come from the continuously deteriorating and decaying middle class. As if that wasn't gloom and doom enough, more than 25% of us "actually make less in real wages than someone making the minimum wage in 1968." Many of you reading this right now may never make it in society even with a college degree. We have an ever-increasing number of college graduates living in poverty. No wonder so many people are not paying back their student loans.

But what about those of us who make it, get a decent paying job and wind up in the middle class? What is our future? In a world where there are corporate executives making over one hundred million a year, you and I will never come close to that salary in our lives. With the continuing decline of unions who fight for the rights of workers in the workplace and the persisting movement of businesses overseas, more of us start to fall through the expanding cracks. In these developing nations these businesses continue to rob their workers blind, paying them close to "slave wages." And since they were spending less to create their goods, you'd think the price of their products would drop, right? **GUESS AGAIN!**

The prices don't drop and we continue to see ever increasing prices. But how can that be? They are saving tons of money; it doesn't make sense. Well the savings are not passed on to the consumer. Instead, the CEOs of these corporations, other executives and, of course, the stockholders are the ones who gain from the move. We get nothing! It is almost an incentive for CEOs to cut workers' jobs and save the company some money, whether it is from moving the manufacturing sector overseas or just by laying off lots of people. They actually wind up making more money since almost all of them have stock options in their companies. As crazy



as it sounds, it's a fact and nothing is being done to stop this. People who already have so much money they don't know what to do with it are becoming more wealthy as the numbers of those who can't even feed their families increase.

Thomas Jefferson once postulated that banking institutions and corporations, if left unchecked, would one day lead to the destruction of democracy in the United States.

It is these corporations that control the means of production, transportation, exchange, technology and communication that really control our country. It is their whims to whom our represented legislators kowtow.

To prove how politically impotent you and I are, I'll give you an example. Over 80% of Americans want some kind of nationalized health care plan. That is what we the people want. In President Clinton's first term, he proposed a system for national health care but the Republicans, the worker bees for the interests of the filthy rich, crushed it on behalf of those they really represent, big business. They did what the lobbyists for the insurance industry wanted, not what was best for the people.

And you'll never hear this in the mainstream media. Control of the mass media is important to keep us in line by not letting us know how bad things really are. Through their carefully constructed and disguised propaganda, they bombard us with falsehoods and hide the truth. Remember, they are responsible to their shareholders as well. It's all big business, whether we want to see it or not.

Now what about our politicians? Our President, congressmen/women and our senators? Well if you still don't believe what I'm saying, consider the fact that so many of them become lobbyists after they leave their positions. They go to work for those corporations that are working against you and me. Do you think that these corporations would hire them if they fought against their interests? **GUESS AGAIN!**

Something needs to be done, and soon. More of us are becoming "redundant" in the workplace and are then obligated to pack our bags and leave the middle class. There is only one place to go from there - poverty.

Welcome to the American Dream!

Join us in the next issue as we continue with part two of this series. ■

## Make an IMPACT

### Corporate Watchdogs

Corporate Watch: <http://www.corpwatch.org/>

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# Liberalism is alive

(LIBERALS, continued from page 9)

Granddad.

Know a military veteran whining about liberals? Fuck the GI Bill. You don't like liberals? Well, no veteran benefits for you, buddy.

Some yahoo fussing about how liberals are ruining the country, then let that chemical company next to his neighborhood keep right on polluting his environment. When his kids start being born deformed, he'll have no one to blame but himself.

How about an immigrant? Can you say, "Deportation."

What about a woman bad mouthing affirmative action? Send this female yahoo straight to the kitchen bare-footed and pregnant. Also, tell her she can't go to college and she can't earn the same wages a man makes for doing the same job.

And heaven forbid, know somebody black running at the mouth? Well, we'll just tell this Clarence Thomas Uncle Tom that he can't vote.

Despite recent rumors, liberalism is not dead. Like I said earlier, Liberals just need to be more vocal.

## Suggested Liberal Readings:

Down Size This! by Michael Moore, Rush Limbaugh Is A Big Fat Idiot by Al Franken, We're Right, They're Wrong by James Carville, The L Word by David P. Barish ■

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# Racism must be fought with action

(RACISM, continued from page 43)

manipulation of ideas is readily apparent. Hale also made significant progress at Bradley in terms of acquiring fluency in German. The ability to read the works of the Fuhrer and other Nazi leaders in the original must be gratifying and perhaps useful for his cause. I have no knowledge about his progress at Bradley in terms of his mastery of the violin. I do wonder how Matt Hale will use this skill in leading the faithful in the war against what he calls the "mud people". I am confident that he will find a way.

Although it is Benjamin Smith who went on a racist murder spree, he was not alone in pulling the trigger. In various ways, directly or indirectly, from close or far away, with good, bad or no intentions, Benjamin Smith and Matt Hale are our creations. Too many of us are located in what Primo Levi calls the "gray zone". That it is difficult and unpleasant to see ourselves in the mirror is understandable. That people without the intellectual tools might have difficulty making these connections is not unexpected. However, the failure of professors and other educational leaders to understand our complicity in this respect is inexcusable.

Given this bleak yet realistic picture, what are the implications? While we should continue to appeal to the sense of justice and morality of students, faculty, and administrators (As Primo Levi says, "It is the duty of righteous men [and women] to make war on all undeserved privilege."), we should not expect a significant re-

sponse. We are asking people to transcend their self-interest. That is asking for much and few are capable of such a feat.

What is therefore needed is more militant political actions that inflict some costs on those unwilling to give up their usurped power and privilege. Certainly, the impetus and leadership in our struggle to eliminate the racist mascots, logos and nicknames will have to come from Native Americans since it is unambiguously in their interest that these practices be eliminated. ■

**Dr. Zeev Gorin** is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois. He serves on the Board of Directors of the State of Illinois chapter of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media.

## Make an IMPACT

American Civil Rights Institute: <http://www.acri.org/>

Anti-Racist Action Network: <http://www.aranet.org/>

American Indian Movement: <http://www.aimovement.org/>

The National Conference for Community and Justice: <http://www.nccj.org/>



# Back

**IMPACT**  
press



Inside:  
The Religious Left: A Moral Balancing Act  
America Is Selling Out Taiwan  
V.I. Bush's Bomber, Duke  
and a Marine on the Rise

## issue #23

**Issue #23, October/November '99, Cover Story: Big House of Horrors - Abuse In America's Jails --**  
Also: The Religious Left - A Moral Balancing Act; America is Selling Out Taiwan; TJ Walker columns

**Issue #22, August/September '99, Cover Story: Prisoners of Conscience -- US Political Prisoners --**  
Also: Space Exploration & Exploitation; America's Ritual Genocide of Iraq

**Issue #21, June/July '99, Cover Story: Imprisoning the Mind - Art Censorship in America --** Also:  
Facing 30; Death with Dignity or a .22; A Patriotic Left

**Issue #20, Apr/May '99, Cover Story: The Chaining of America --** Also: The Death Penalty -- Reassessing the Punishment; School of the Americas: Training Foreign Killers

**Issue #19, Feb/Mar '99, Cover Story: Population Control: How Many Are Too Many? --** Also: Imprisoning the Masses -- Dark Side of a Prison State; Human Rights Issues

**Issue #18, Dec/Jan '98-99, Cover Story: Interview with Michael Moore plus, Are Women Just a Bunch of Boobs --** Also: An Inside Look at the Homeless Problem

**Issue #17, Oct/Nov '98, Cover Story: Battle For Governor of Florida --** Also: Sexual Politics in the Workplace; Money Determines our Society

**Issue #16, Aug/Sep '98, Cover Story: Schoolyard Armageddon --** Also: Life of a Pro-Abortinist; USA - We're No. 1; The Great Disservice of Nationalism

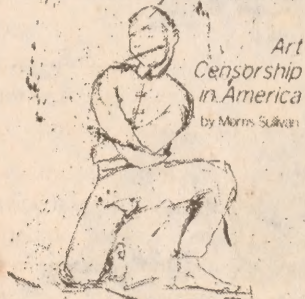
**Issue #15, Jun/Jul '98, Cover Story: CyberSociety --** Also: Sex By Numbers; Confessions of a Phone Psychic; The Inconsistency of Theism

**Issue #14, Apr/May '98, Cover Story: ArtsPolitik --** Also: Paranoia; Anal Laws Sodomize Society; Environmental Chaos and Politics

**Issue #13, Feb/Mar '98, Cover Story: Human Cloning --** Also: Surviving Bulimia; Purchasing Condoms and Lubes; A News Addict Speaks Out

**Issue #12, Dec/Jan '97-98, Cover Story: The Age of Anger --** Also: Preferential Treatment; The Culture of Anonymous Sex; Medical Marijuana

## Imprisoning the Mind



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Death with Dignity  
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Conservative America: A Slice of the West

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**Issue #11, Oct/Nov '97, Cover Story: Homohatred in America --** Also:  
Antidepressants for Adolescents; The Swift Solution -- Food For Thought

**Issue #10, Aug/Sep '97, Cover Story: Employer Espionage --** Also: Family Values - Witch Hunting in the '90s

**Issue #9, Jun/Jul '97, Cover Story: The Assault on Public Education --** Also: Interview with a white supremacist; More from Mumia Abu-Jamal

**Issue #8, Apr/May '97, Cover Story: Commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal --** Also: New Urbanism; Racism Today; The Real American -- The Real Radical

**Issue #7, Feb/Mar '97, Cover Story: American Religion on the Cross --** Also: Failed War on Drugs; Physician Assisted Suicide; Can Nutmeg Get You High?

**Issue #6, Dec/Jan '96-97, Cover Story: Confronting the "Drug Problem" --** Also: Gay Marriage Rights; Net Censorship; The Idiot Clause; Ad Trickery

**Issue #5, Oct/Nov '96, Cover Story: Election '96 Special --** Also:  
Corporate Terrorists; Chiapas Mexico Injustice; Film is About Soul

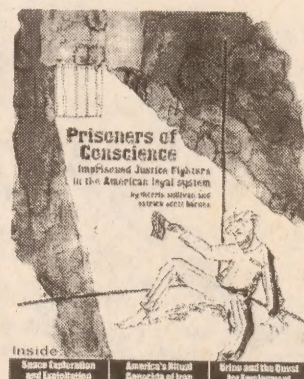
**Issue #4, Summer '96, Cover Story: Everglades vs. Sugar Cane --** Also: Downward Spiral of the Republican Revolution; Don't Pay Your Taxes

**Issue #3, May '96, Cover Story: Christians Politics, Fearful Future --** Also: Police Entrapment; Killer Tomatoes -- Deadly Pesticides; Graffiti -- Urban Artwork

**Issue #2, April '96, Cover Story: The Purchasing of Politicians --** Also: Class Distinction in America; Botched Executions -- Cruel and Unusual?

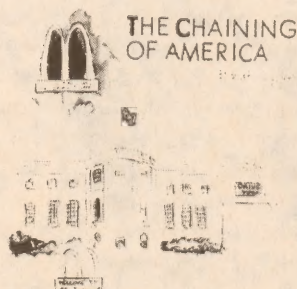
**Issue #1, March '96, Cover Story: Child Abuse Fraud --** Also: FBI Wiretapping policies; The Legalities (or lack of) in Drug Testing

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Inside:  
Space Exploration and Exploitation  
America's Ritual Genocide of Iraq  
Prison and the Quest for Employment

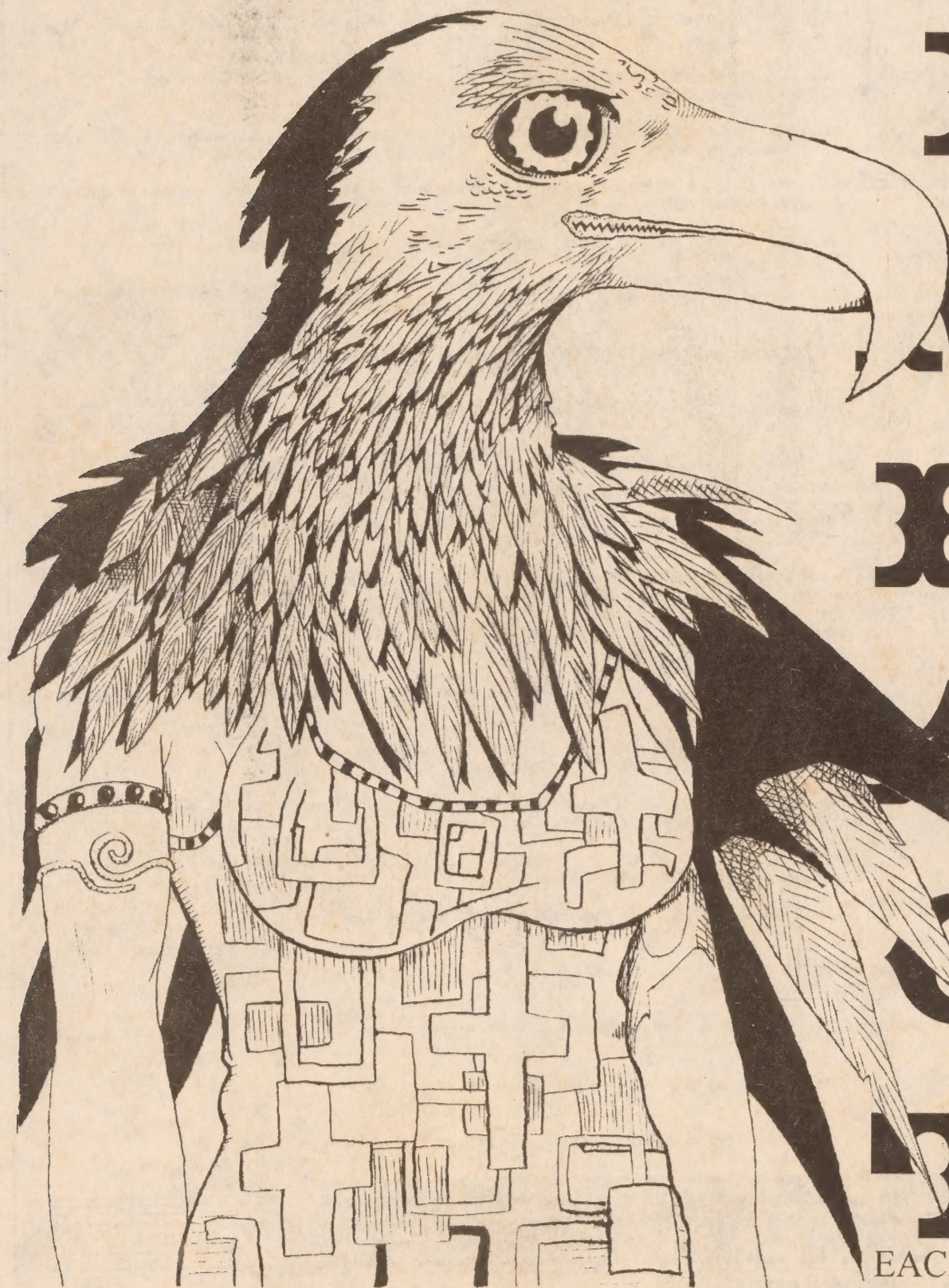
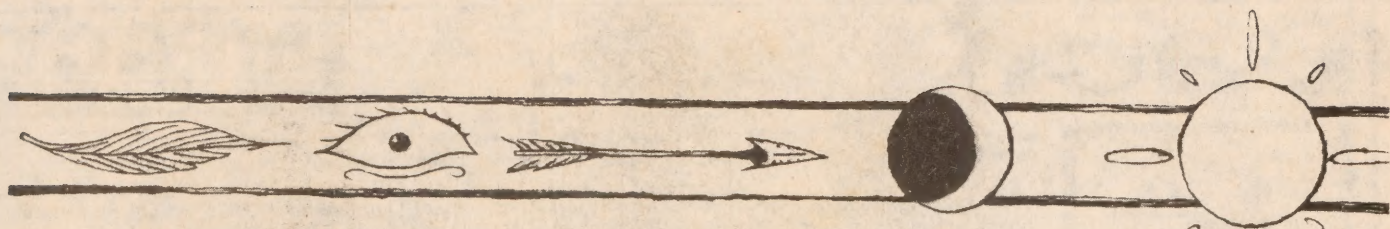
## issue #22



Inside:  
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Prison Legends: On the Left and Right  
School of the Americas: 20 Years, Unimpaired Glory

## issue #20





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